FALL 2006 Volume 2006 • Number 3 • $5.00

THE KEYNOTER

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS

Social Realism: The Graphic Art of Ben Shahn

Non-Partisan Get Out the Vote Items

Favorite New Jersey Locals

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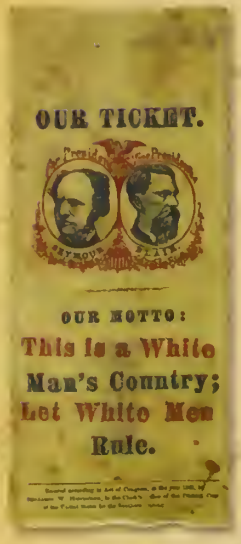

Rare Seymour and Blair Ribbon
Price Realized – $8,365

Bryon Stevenson Full Color Eclipse Button
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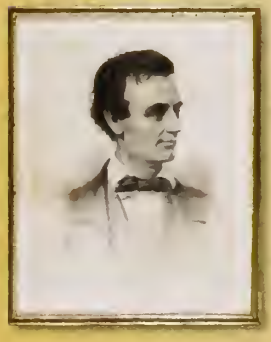

Large 1860 Lincoln Campaign Poster
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

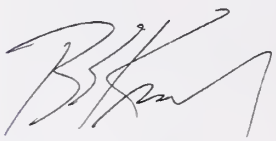
Dear fellow APIC members:

After hearing the rave reviews on our last *Keynoter*, the George Washington issue, I was concerned our editorial board would be faced with the intimidating task of creating a subsequent issue which would be as relevant, enjoyable and entertaining. I likened this feeling to emotions expressed by President Harry Truman, who remarked that he hoped he did not have to stand in the cold shadow of his great predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, after reviewing the galley proofs of this current *Keynoter,* my concerns were quickly put to rest; this issue is spectacular and stands on its own merit.

There are a variety of articles in this edition of our quarterly journal which will surely appeal to the myriad of historical interests enjoyed by our membership. The great American artist, Ben Shahn, created some of the most graphic and significant social/political posters of the twentieth century, and his works are examined in this issue. We are also featuring an examination of the wide variety of materials which urge the vote, rather than promoting singular candidates. Yet another article chronicles the great Whig event of 1844.

This *Keynoter* is also special in that it begins a series of articles which will explore local collectors' favorite items. Many of our locals collectors asked that we include a regular feature on their specialty, and we have delivered. Beginning with New Jersey in this issue, subsequent issues will continue to feature locals collectors showing their favorite non-presidential items.

Yours in progress,



Brian E. Krapf
APIC President

Ben Shahn 1946 CIO PAC poster.

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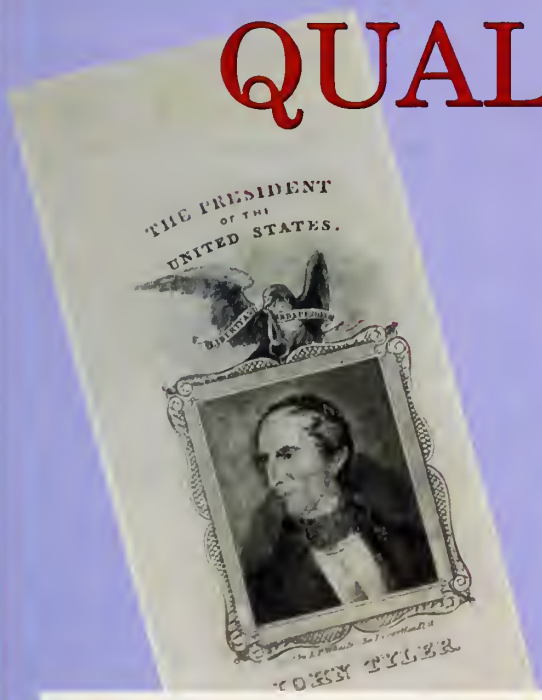

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THE KEYNOTER

Volume 2006 • Number 3

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue has taken a new turn with the cover story on graphic artist Ben Shahn. His work is one of those rare examples when political propaganda rose to the level of genuine art. I first became aware of Shahn's work with his "dove of peace" poster done to support Eugene McCarthy's antiwar challenge to President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 but any study of the graphic art of the 1940's and 1950's quickly reveals work that Shahn had done for decades before.

On a very different front, I also want to note the unheralded work done by John Olsen in preserving non-partisan Get Out the Vote items. This is an overlooked aspect of Political Americana and Olsen may be the first recognized specialist in the field.

In closing, I wanted to recognize the passing of a rare political figure, Frank Ziedler, who died on July 7, 2006. Zielder was a Socialist and was elected Mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1948 to 1960 on the Socialist ticket. In 1976, he was the presidential candidate of a revived Socialist Party, winning 5,427 votes. Ziedler was featured in Winter 1998 *Keynoter* and spoke to the 1989 APIC National Convention in Milwaukee. Although it may seem odd for a Republican like me to pay tribute to a Socialist, Ziedler was an example of honest public service, something becoming more uncommon in this era of attack ads and campaign consultants.

Michael Kelly
Editor

Features

THANK YOU--The editor wishes to thank Rex Stark for providing the majority of the images for the George Washington issue (Spring/Summer 2006), other than those specifically credited to David and Janice Frent. This diverse collection of material is a national asset and the sharing with Keynoter readers is deeply appreciated.

ILLUSTRATIONS--The editor wishes to thanks the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Germaine Broussard, Michael Dunham, Robert Fratkin, Kim Gelke, Jon Olsen, Al Salter, Ronnie Lapinsky Sax, Robert Saypol, and Glen Soden.

FRONT COVER--An example of political propaganda rising to the level of art: a poster for President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944 by Ben Shahn.

SUBMISSIONS--*This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Keynoter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to mkelly@mcc.edu. Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks loosing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIG, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

If you don't have access to a scanner or high-resolution digital camera, you can take your items to graphic service bureaus, such as Kinko's, and have them scanned in the specification mentioned above. You can then send the file by e-mail, on a CD or on a zip disk. If sending by zip disk, please supply return address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The recent George Washington issue was the best yet.

The editorial quality was at least comparable to the first color issue in Spring 2004 with the excellent Arthur Schlesinger essay on "Running for President". The pieces by four historians outside the hobby give a true literary quality to The Keynoter.

I enjoyed reading all of these articles. This literary quality was supplemented by extensive color photography of two of the best Washington collections in the hobby. Seeing so many of Rex Stark's ceramics is mind-boggling. What an extensive and varied collection. David and Janice Frent's Washington clothing buttons and ceramics are extensive and marvelous as well. The quality of all the photographic images is extremely high. These large collections will also provide valuable reference in the future.

Thanks for bringing us such superb quality.

Tom Berg (APIC #6814)

APIC OFFICERS & BOARD

American Political Items Conservators is the educational division of the American Political Items Collectors Inc., a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. APIC seeks to encourage and support the study and preservation of original materials issuing from and relating to political campaigns of the United States of America and to bring its members fuller appreciation and deeper understanding of the candidates and issues that form our political heritage.

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Social Realism: The Graphic Art of Ben Shahn

By Glen W. Soden

My fascination with the work of artist Ben Shahn began with an art appreciation course in college. Upon my first viewing of "Miner's Wives" by Shahn, an intriguing portrait of the wife of a coal miner anxiously awaiting news of her husband from approaching mine inspectors or undertakers, I was captivated. The hands of the wife conveyed emotion. Although I was a political item collector at the time, little did I realize the graphics connection between Ben Shahn and my interest in political science and collecting campaign items. Since that time the hands of Ben Shahn and his subjects have led me to an extensive collection of Shahn's social and political works.

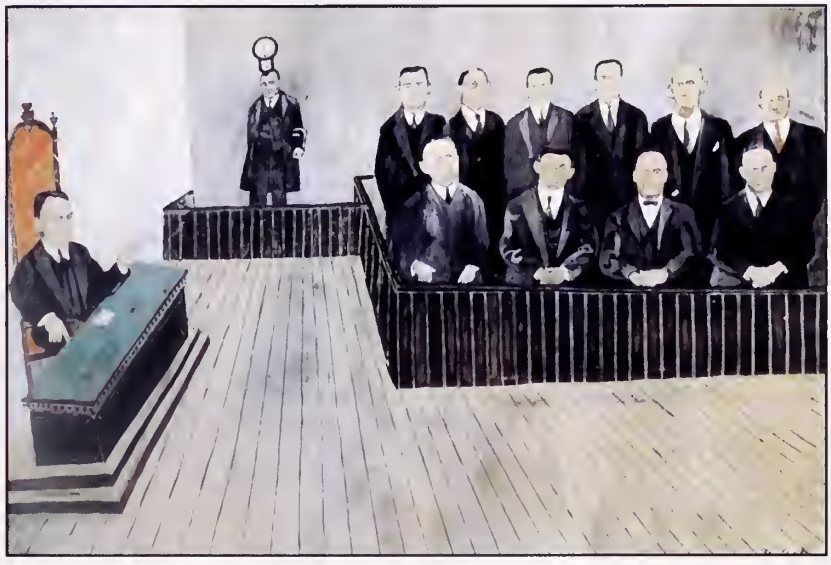
In Shahn's own quest as an artist and as the son of a wood carver, he found the social events of the time compelling. Stories and people became the focus of his art. Beginning with portraits of the Dreyfus affair, a trial in France of a Jewish military officer charged with treason, found guilty and later acquitted following proof of corruption and anti-Semitism by the prosecutors, Shahn later recorded "The Passion of Sacco-Vanzetti," a Massachusetts death by electrocution case following the robbery and murder of a paymaster and guard and anti-anarchist and anti-Italian bias by the judge. Shahn followed with his artist's recording of the trial of California labor leader Tom Mooney. Cause buttons were issued for both the latter trials.

The Lowell Committee at the coffins of Sacco and Vanzetti (l-r) Robert Grant; Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell; MIT President Samuel W. Stratton. In the window in the background is trial judge Webster Thayer.

Two of 23 works depicting the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, the protest demonstrations, the officials involved, and their execution. 1931-1932

Tom Mooney's mother.
The trial of Tom Mooney in California in 1916. Three of 16 works on this topic. 1932-1933

Defendant Tom Mooney



The Trial of Tom Mooney

Interestingly, despite his being an artist who in many of his works deplored the actions of government and its officials, Shahn found an outlet for his creativity through the support of government programs. The Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration led Shahn to an appreciation for the actions of Franklin Roosevelt and his administration. It also led to Shahn's relationship with Bernarda Bryson of Columbus, who was to become his second wife. Together they photographed or drew the desperate economic conditions of the Midwestern and Southern United States for the Farm Security Administration. (In a coincidental further personal connection to my interest in Ben Shahn, my daughters attended the same Columbus school from which Bernarda had graduated.)

During World War II Shahn worked in the graphics division of the Office of War Information and produced the posters "Nazi Brutality" and "We French workers warn you… defeat means slavery, starvation, death," showing the "Official Vichy Decree. " The poster "This is Nazi brutality" was powerful, showing a victim to be executed by firing squad and a telegram "RADIO BERLIN. – IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED: - ALL MEN OF LIDICE – CZECHOSLOVAKIA - HAVING BEEN

Above and Page 11: Three of 8 works on Prohibition theme for the New York City Public Works of Art project. The man in the white suit (above) depicts NYC Mayor Jimmy Walker.

SHOT: THE WOMEN DEPORTED TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP: THE CHILDREN SENT TO APPROPRIATE CENTERS—THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE WAS IMMEDIATELY ABOLISHED. 6/11/42/115P." Reaction at the time to this chilling poster story of inhumanity was that it was too vivid and violent. Other Shahn posters were also considered too vivid, and government bureaucrats cancelled work on many of Shahn's poster ideas.

In 1944 Ben Shahn found work with the Political Action Committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO-PAC) to design materials and posters for FDR's presidential campaign. The postcard pictured is of Republican presidential candidate Thomas Dewey as a ventriloquist's dummy on Herbert Hoover's knee. Shahn's satire of Dewey as merely a dummy with Hoover's voice is told in the simple illustration without wording. The poster "FDR - Our Friend" was also done during Shahn's CIO-PAC relationship. His depiction of Roosevelt as a larger than life father figure also prominently displays "CIO I am your neighbor" buttons and cards for the National Farmers Union and Farm Bureau. All stories told with minimal wording.

Shahn lent his graphic efforts through the CIO to the Truman administration through his 1946 Vote posters for the 1946 congressional campaigns in a fight against the conservative right. The poster "We want Peace REGISTER VOTE" shows hunger in a child's eyes and outstretched hand. The hand was again a central focus.

Huey Long 1935

Father Coughlin 1939

However, Shahn's frustration with the CIO and the Truman administration resulted in his support for the Progressive Party and its presidential candidate Henry Wallace in 1948. As a member of Wallace's publicity team, Shahn produced the poster "A Good Man is Hard to Find," I was fortunate to acquire the poster on eBay from a California couple who were pleased to discover it had monetary value, and I later found it at auction in another version as a large postcard for an American Labor Party October 26, 1948 rally for Wallace and Taylor at Madison Square Garden in New York City. I find it a daily reinforcement of the value of satire and humor in politics. Based loosely on the photograph of Lauren Bacall reclined upon Harry Truman's piano during his 1945 birthday celebration, Shahn depicts Thomas Dewey as the pretty boy candidate reclining upon the piano while a vacant-eyed Harry Truman plays "There goes that song again" and "Little White Lies." The only reference to Henry Wallace on the poster is a sponsorship line identifying the Progressive Party under the piano legs. History records that Harry caught some hell of his own from his wife for the earlier piano incident.

Shahn's 'humanistic art" as he called it, moved back to mainstream politics with his support of Adlai Stevenson in 1952 and his creation of the 13" by 9 1/8" handout "Watch out for The Man on a White Horse! – better vote for Stevenson." Dwight Eisenhower was shown on a sectioned horse trying with difficulty to rein in reactionary members of the Republican party, with parts most prominently identified as Senator Joseph McCarthy and vice-presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon. Interestingly the handout indicates that it was "Paid for by Volunteers for Stevenson, Roosevelt, NJ," coincidentally the home of Ben Shahn. Shahn would not return to a presidential campaign again until 1964 with his biting satire of Barry Goldwater in the poster "He says 'No' to Civilization and Survival," inserting Goldwater's own statements with an image of Goldwater in diapers attempting to place his foot in his mouth. A signed and numbered companion poster by Shahn "Say no to the no-sayer, Vote Johnson," listed Goldwater's No votes in the Senate.

Ben Shahn supported the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy with his 1968 poster "McCarthy PEACE." The drawing of the dove in that poster also was employed in the design for Eugene J. McCarthy's 1969 book *The Year of the People* and a pinback button for a Massachusetts candidate's congressional campaign.

Posters and other paper materials are excellent graphics for a political item collection. Shahn's focus on the hands and hearts of the social and political processes is timeless. Irrespective of ideology, they depict the humanistic themes, stories and people to which he related to convey realities beyond the satire. Few if any words are needed to express political and social beliefs in this graphic form. They form a poignant part of a collection that reminds us of the social and political realities that comprise our collective democracy. The hands continue to show emotion.

For a more complete examination of the life and art of Ben Shahn, we recommend *Ben Shahn - An Artist's Life* by Howard Greenfeld, Random House, 1998.

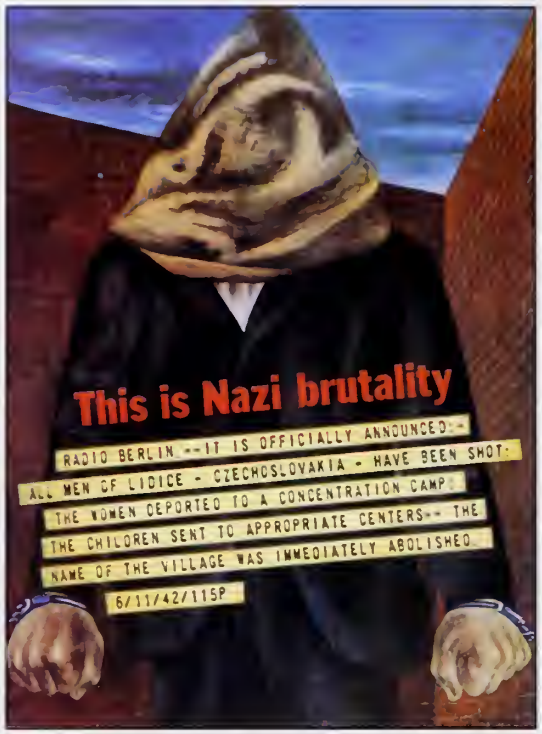
Steel Workers - Late 1930s

American Youth Act 1936-37

National Textile Act 1935

1936

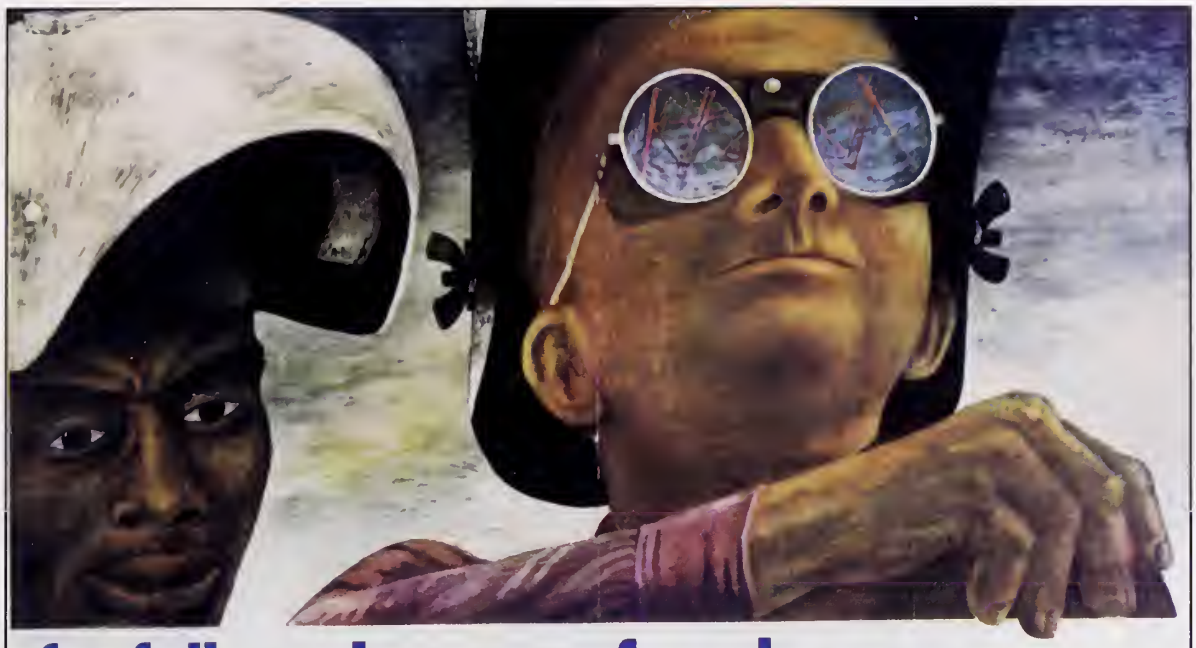
Fight for a Free World - 1942 - Office of War Information (OWI)



Lidice Brutality - 1942 - OWI

Adolph Hitler 1939

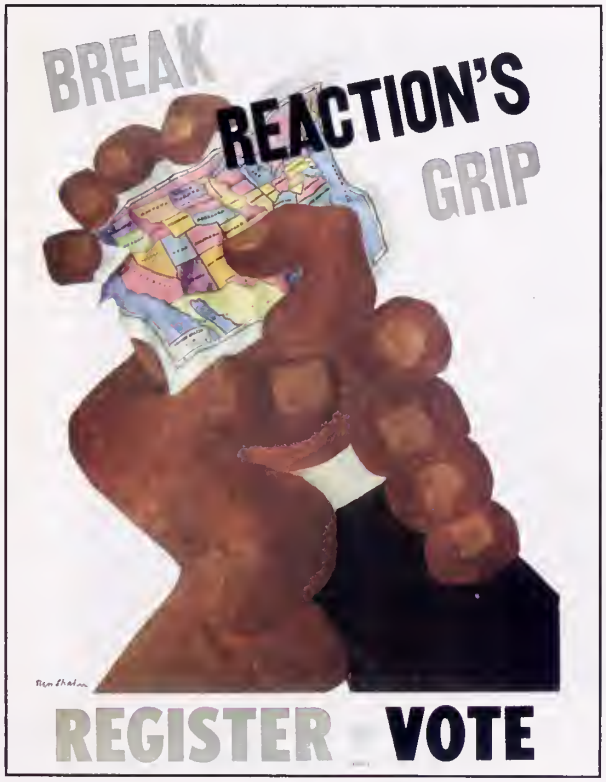
French Workers - 1942 - OWI


for full employment after the war
REGISTER VOTE
CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

1944


We want Peace
REGISTER
VOTE

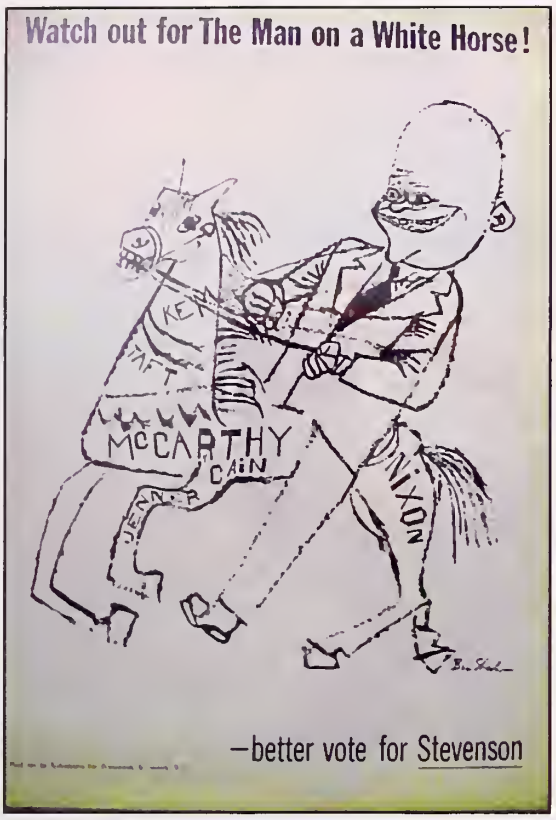
1946


BREAK
REACTION'S
GRIP
REGISTER VOTE

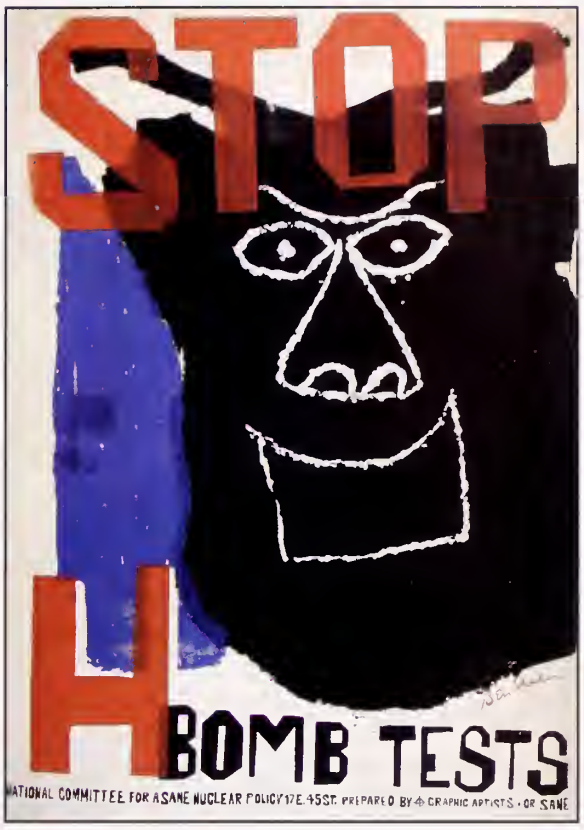
Republican candidate Thomas Dewey depicted as ventriloquist dummy Charlie McCarthy sitting on Herbert Hoover's knee. 1944 - CIO-PAC

Photograph of Lauren Bacall sitting on President Truman's piano in 1945, Shahn's inspiration for the 1948 poster.

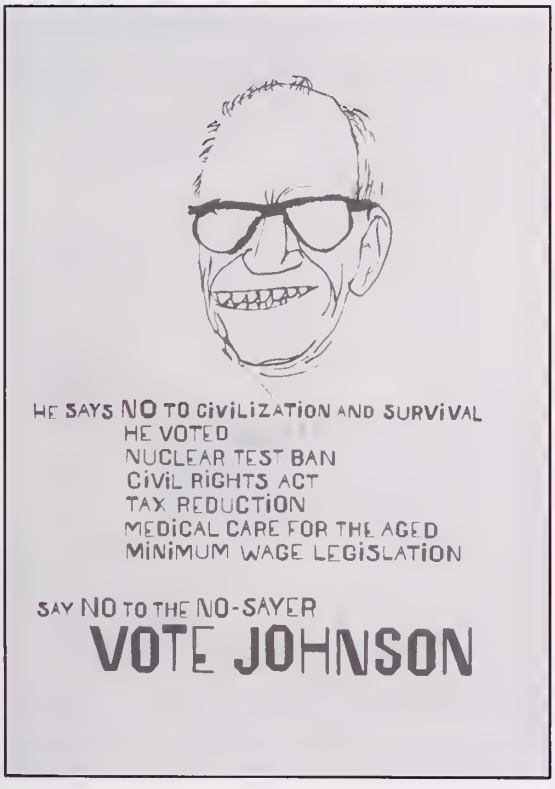
A Good Man is Hard to Find. 1948 - Progressive Party



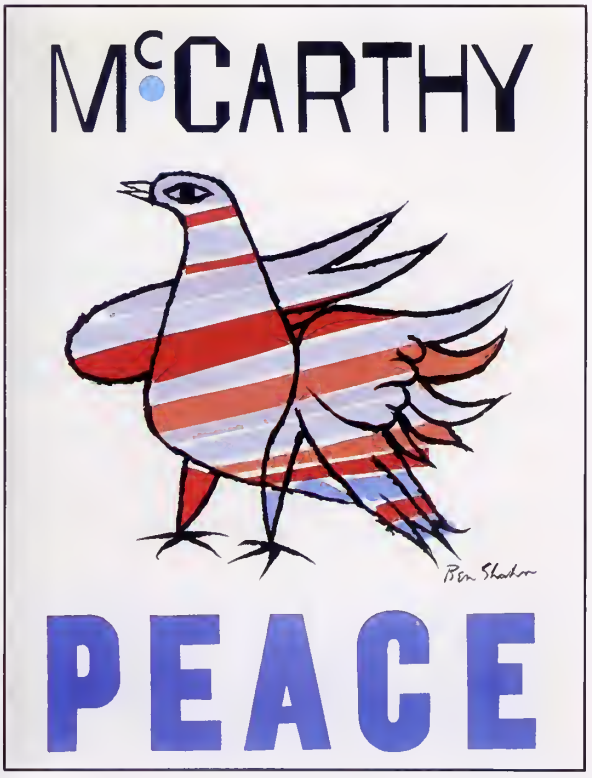
Man on a White Horse 1952



Stop H Bomb Tests 1960



Say No to the No-Sayer 1964



McCarthy Peace 1968

Non-Partisan Get-Out-The Vote Items

By Jon Olsen

The vast majority of memorabilia collected by APIC members can be categorized as candidate, cause, or party related memorabilia. These types of items state a position for or against someone or something. Yet, the non-partisan vote items created and distributed by the hundreds of different Non-Partisan Get-Out-The-Vote(GOTV) drives organized by union, fraternal, commercial, non-profit, ethnic, community, veteran, scouting and government organizations only promote voting and voter education. Accordingly, they do not exactly fit into any of the three categories of the most frequently collected items.

Most political collectors decide to collect because they feel passionate about a particular candidate, cause, or political party. For me, preserving the material history of GOTV drives is a tribute to the thousands of people who believe empowering citizens with a voice in their government and mobilizing as many voters as possible is the best way to strengthen the representative republic our founding fathers began.

When citizens register to vote, they are taking the first step towards becoming active participants in the great American experiment called representative government. When Election Day arrives and citizens vote, they are demonstrating their willingness and pride in becoming active participants in the political life of their community , county, state and nation.

I wish somehow that immediately following the casting of each ballot there could be a miniature fireworks show and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. For it is on Election Day, not the Fourth of July, that we as Americans truly honor the amazing achievement our founding fathers accomplished when they wrote the charters that created America.

Of all the political memorabilia ever made in the U.S., I think vote items rank behind only "Vote Democratic," and "Vote Republican," items as the most numerously manufactured. While an enormous variety of vote items have been produced, I believe fewer of these items have been saved than any other type of political memorabilia.

Despite this fact, since 1994 I have been able to amass over 1,000 different lapel devices (buttons, lapel pins, tabs, etc.) as well as hundreds of paper items and scores of 3-D items, all encouraging people to register and/or vote. Still, there are hundreds of vote items that I have yet been unable to obtain.

The most challenging aspect of collecting these items is trying to uncover the history behind them. As far as I know, there has never been a formal study of the historical development of GOTV drives. Furthermore, unlike candidate and most cause related items, which can easily be traced to a limited number of elections within a short span of time, uncovering the history of many non-partisan vote items is virtually impossible. Many vote items provide little or no clues as to who manufactured them, when, or why. A small percentage of vote items do have a date and/or additional information on the front or curl. With a date, it is possible to determine the year the item was produced through examination of the font style, construction, and knowing that the dates for presidential elections repeat every 28 years, (i.e. Nov. 6th was Election Day in the years 1900, 1928, 1956, 1984). Determining much beyond the year an item was produced can be a challenge. Much of what I have been able to determine about these pieces has been through studying the history of the many fights to expand voting rights. These include women's suffrage, civil rights, 18-20 yr. old vote, D.C. presidential vote, and handicapped/elderly vote accessibility movements.

In addition to these social justice movements, many businesses have incorporated GOTV drives and/or vote slogans to appeal to the patriotic sentiment of their customers. This practice primarily started in 1952 and has increased steadily since then. Additionally, a wide variety of other organizations such as unions and minority groups have used GOTV drives to demonstrate and/or increase their political influence at the various levels of government. Finally, charitable, governmental, educational, veteran, and non-profit organizations generally organize their own non-partisan GOTV drives out of a sense of community service and patriotic duty. While there are some GOTV drives held during off-year elections, there are hundreds of individual GOTV drives held during presidential election years.

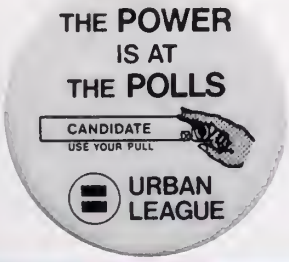
Widespread use of vote items did not occur until after 1920. Non-partisan vote items dating prior to 1920 are extremely rare. I have been able to obtain less than twenty such items in over 11 years of collecting vote items. I believe the primary reason for this is that political party machines exerted a great deal of control over the elections throughout the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. Furthermore, the population of eligible voters was far smaller during this period. Therefore, voter outreach efforts were focused at the local level rather than being coordinated from a national organization.

The first national organization whose primary goal was voter education and GOTV was the League of Women Voters (LWV). In 1919, in anticipation of women gaining the right to vote the next year, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters. On August 18, 1920, women gained the right to vote and the size of the electorate nearly doubled overnight. With only three months until the election, there were many women who were unfamiliar with the issues, candidates, and voting procedures. The LWV set out to educate as many of these women as possible. Since 1919, the LWV has grown considerably; expanded their mission to include all voters; and is the largest and best known of all non-partisan GOTV organizations. The earliest LWV items in my collection are a "3rd Annual Convention Iowa League of Women Voters, Des Moines, IA, Oct. 11-13, 1922," a miniature hanging badge engraved on the front, "N.K. Unit Citizenship Prize 1928," and a few pamphlets including a 1924 "Working Kit: Get Out The Vote Campaign" published by the New York chapter of LWV.

After 1920, the number of GOTV drives as well as the variety of vote memorabilia grew gradually until 1952. Artifacts from GOTV drives held between 1920 and 1948 are scarce. During 1944, as one might expect, many vote items emphasized patriotism due to WW II. Between 1952 and 1988, the GOTV efforts leading up to the 1952, 1956, and 1972 were the largest.

If there was ever any positive outcome of the fervent anti-communism sentiment rampant throughout the U.S. during the 1950's, it was the large voter turnout in both the 1952 and 1956 elections. In both elections, the American Heritage Foundation (AHF) coordinated and provided significant assistance to the multitude of major organizations of all types who ran GOTV drives. In 1952, to avoid a repeat of the low voter turnout seen four years earlier and to demonstrate the strength of American democracy vis-à-vis Soviet communism, the AHF focused its efforts on coordinating the national GOTV efforts of 60 different businesses and non-profit groups which produced many different political items. Probably the most unusual of these items are two different sized plastic dog coats. The smaller one says, "Vote as you DOG-GONE please but please VOTE NOV. 5." The larger has the same saying but without the date. Items reading, "I've Voted, Have You?" were first distributed in 1952 to voters as they left the polling place. In '52 and '56, hanging paper badges were issued. After 1956, tabs and, more recently, stickers have been used for this purpose. Although the GOTV effort in 1952 was notably more active than any previous election year, and produced the second highest turnout rate of the 20th Century, this effort paled in comparison to the American Heritage Foundation's efforts in 1956..

In 1956, the AHF raised non-partisan GOTV efforts to new heights by coordinating the independent drives of 148 different groups. With so little documentation available for most GOTV drives, I was blessed many years ago with the wonderful gift of a book from my generous friend, the late Tim Coughlin. Titled, *Progress Report: 1956 Non-Partisan Register, Inform Yourself, and Vote Program* this publication is 129 pages long and is a compilation of reports by the AHF's GOTV partners, including lists of memorabilia any of the groups produced. Unfortunately, only two paper items were enclosed within the book and no other images of the memorabilia were listed.



By using the information in the book, I was able to obtain from the archivist of the Leo Burnett Advertising Company the 46-page booklet published by AHF titled, "How to Get People to Register and Vote." This book did include several of the graphics seen on buttons and small paper vote items produced in 1956. One of these buttons simply says, "I'm in the Book." Thankfully, the example of this button I have in my collection differs only in the addition of two words, "Election Volunteer." Without these two words, I would have never associated it with any GOTV drive, let alone connecting it to AHF.

The book also had a sample of the "fact sheet" given to newsmen by over 800 local Kiwanis clubs sponsoring GOTV campaigns, called "Ballot Battalions." Kiwanis clubs appear to be the first to use the term "ballot battalion" for their campaign in 1952. The well-known blue and white "Ballot Battalion" button has been cited by some collectors as being issued by the 1948 Henry Wallace campaign. Although I have not yet found images of the Ballot Battalion buttons on any Kiwanis literature, the size of their GOTV campaign and the years it took place make it seem more logical that the Kiwanis clubs were the original source of the Ballot Battalion buttons, not the Henry Wallace campaign.

While 1960 was the largest voter turnout of the 20th century, the number of vote items produced for the 1960 election and the next two presidential elections were fewer than for the 1952 and 1956 elections. However, during the period between the 1968 and 1972 elections, there was a surge in the availability of vote items and 18-20 year olds were directly responsible. Although the youth suffrage movement had its first success in Georgia in 1943, the most active period of advocating youth suffrage was between 1968 and July 1, 1971, the day the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, officially lowering the voting age throughout the nation to 18. The most compelling argument for granting 18-20 year olds voting rights was summed up in the slogan "Old Enough to Fight, Old Enough to Die, Old Enough to Vote."

Although the youth suffrage movement never received the attention that other social justice movements such as the women's suffrage, civil rights, or anti-nuclear movement, hundreds of items, primarily buttons, pamphlets, stickers, and a few jewelry pieces were produced promoting the lowering of the voting age. In 1970, there had been 15 state referendums to lower the voting age, some to 18, others 19, and two to 20. Voters rejected all but two of these referendums, although a majority of Americans over 21, when polled, favored lowering the voting age. Following the ratification of the 26th Amendment, the entire nation seemed to become obsessed with encouraging 18-20 year olds to vote. The sheer volume of vote items from 1972 is overwhelming. Although I am certain there were hundreds of GOTV drives in 1972, the majority of the 1972 items were originally sold commercially rather than being distributed by GOTV organizations.

A single company, McQ Incorporated, was responsible for many unusual items emblazoned with vote logos on them. McQ Inc.was founded by Robert McQuade, a well-known advertising agent, who worked in several campaigns,

including Robert Kennedy's presidential primary race and was inspired to create three logos to encourage a large voter turnout.

With his expertise in marketing and licensing logos for NFL teams, Mr. McQuade believed he had all the contacts to successfully promote his new logos. The first logo was simply the word "vote" in block letters but with "O" replaced by a circular flag motif. This logo would appear on all licensed items. Sometimes it appeared by itself and other times in conjunction with Mr. McQuade's two other designs/logos, an eagle with a tear and a red, white, and blue butterfly. Mr. McQuade chose the eagle with a tear to represent the pain the country felt over the Vietnam War. This image was meant to appeal to older Americans who were deeply patriotic. On the other hand, the stylized butterfly was meant to represent peace and freedom. The hope was that this image would appeal to the free spirited youth who were generally disenchanted with politics of the day.

For Mr. McQuade's logos to have a chance to succeed, they would need to appear on a great variety of products, with as wide a distribution as possible. He emblazoned the red, white and blue logos on clothing of all kinds and was successful in marketing them through major department stores. They all proved to be classics of style and fashion in the early 1970's. Some of the more popular items included shirts, denim purses, hats, purses, hip-hugger, flair and bell bottom pants, note cards and of course, buttons.

There are many satisfying qualities about collecting vote items. First, with thousands of pieces issued in every state, a collector will never find them all! Secondly, there are new pieces every two years! And while some collectors worry about vendor involvement with items they collect, you can almost be assured that every vote item is given out by an organization that believes in the cause, not in making a buck. Collecting vote items is a great way to capture true pieces of history, take pride in our country, and have a never-ending collection of genuine political items!

John Olsen (APIC #10933) lives in Ankeny, Iowa and started collecting in 1992. He was one of the "young" collectors who rejuvenate the National Capitol Chapter of the APIC. Olsen was curator at the American Presidential Museum from 2001-2003 and was exhibits chair for the 2006 APIC National Convention in Kansas City.

The item above is a particularly unusual political item. It's a "jacket" designed to be worn by a dog.


I HAVE VOTED HAVE YOU?
COUNCIL BLUFFS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
THINK
★
VOTE


DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT
VOTE
League of Women Voters

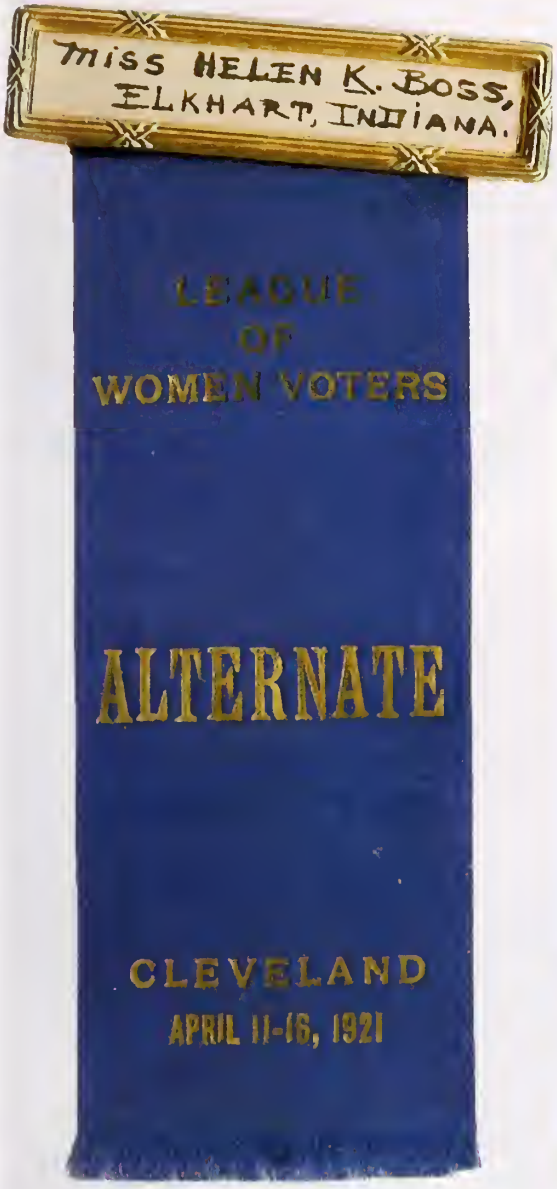

LEAGUE OF
VOLUNTEER FOR
EDUCATIONAL DEFENSE
WOMEN VOTERS


WOMEN COUNT
"Failure is Impossible"
Susan B. Anthony 1906
VOTE

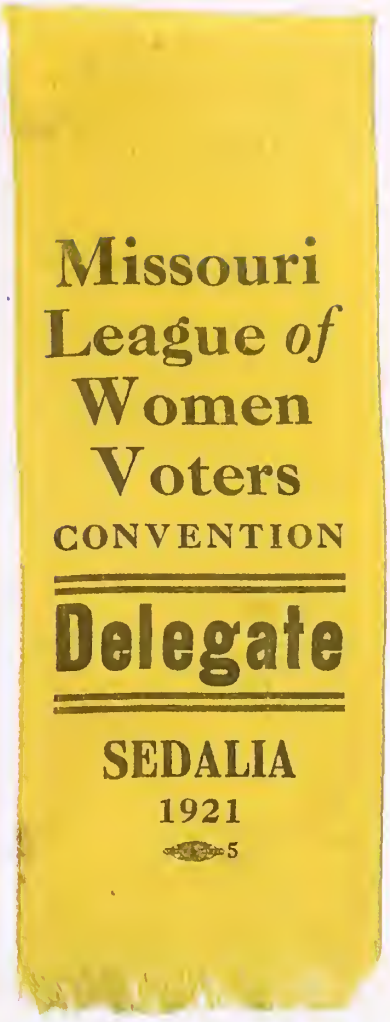

3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
IOWA
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
DES MOINES, IA.
OCT. 11-13, 1922

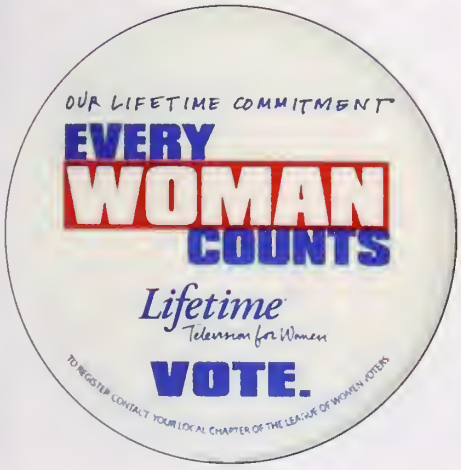

AUSPICES OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WILL
YOUR PARENTS
VOTE
NOVEMBER 4th
?

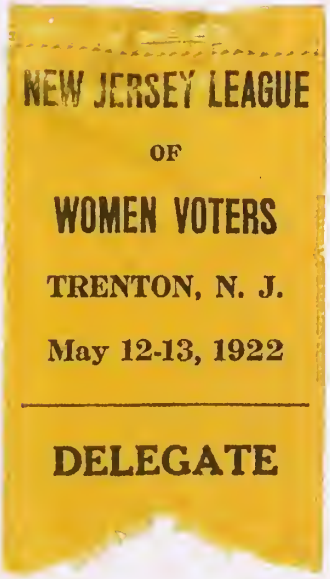

CELEBRATE THE 19th AMENDMENT
VOTE!
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

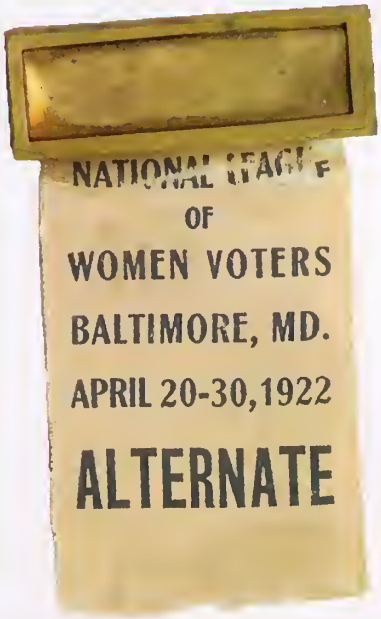

Miss HELEN K. BOSS,
ELKHART, INDIANA.
LEAGUE
OF
WOMEN VOTERS
ALTERNATE
CLEVELAND
APRIL 11-16, 1921


OFFICIAL
VISITOR
N. Y. STATE
LEAGUE
OF
WOMEN
VOTERS


Missouri
League of
Women
Voters
CONVENTION
Delegate
SEDALIA
1921
5

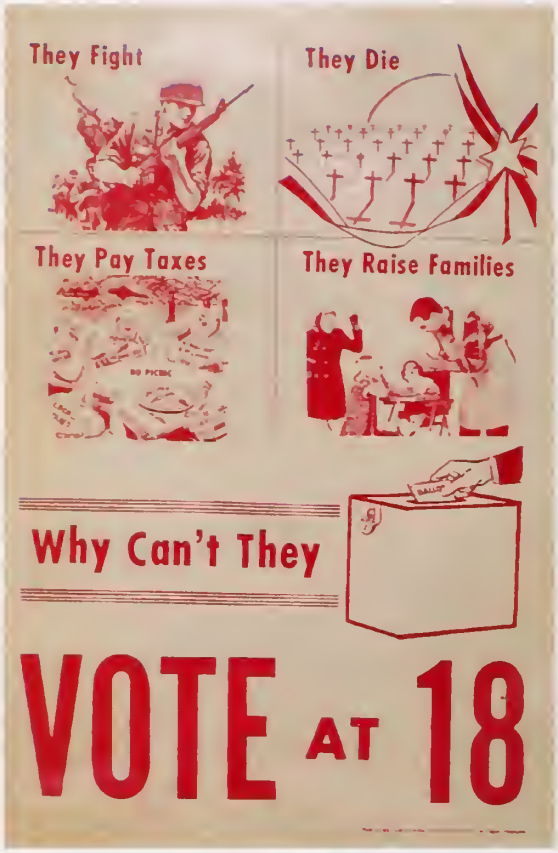

OUR LIFETIME COMMITMENT
EVERY
WOMAN
COUNTS
Lifetime
Television for Women
VOTE.


NEW JERSEY LEAGUE
OF
WOMEN VOTERS
TRENTON, N. J.
May 12-13, 1922
DELEGATE


OF
WOMEN VOTERS
BALTIMORE, MD.
APRIL 20-30, 1922
ALTERNATE


I'll Vote
Oct. 28, '56
For Home and Country
Vote May 4
Ballot Battalion
Let's Go
Register Now
Vote in Nov.
Speak Up...
VOTE
November 8
Your Standard Oil Dealer
Permanent Personal Registration
I Can Vote!
This November
Can You?
Is Necessary This Year
Read
Newspapers
Vote
Boy & Girl Citizens
Urge You to Vote
Do Your Duty!
Go to the Polls and
Vote
at
Quaker Oats
Everybody
Votes
Vote
as You Please!
But Please
Vote
I Promised a
Girl Scout
I'd Vote
Kiwanis International
Go
American
Vote
4 Votes For
In My
Family
No Boss
Controls my
Vote.
AARP
Voter
League of Conservation Voters
Vote!
Americans
Speak Out
Vote
Nov. 4, 1980
You Have a Choice
Be Sure You
Vote
Chevrolet

CoCa Cola Supermarket Banner -- Ohio

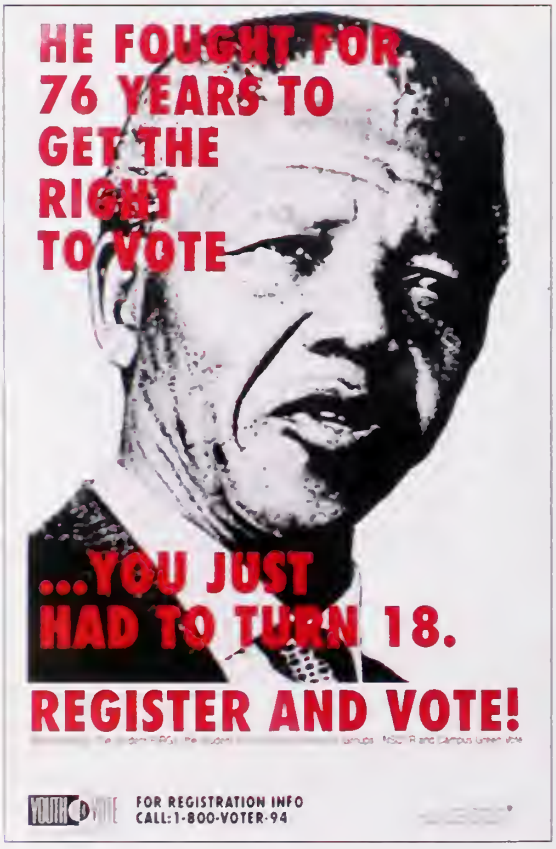

They Fight
They Die
They Pay Taxes
They Raise Families
Why Can't They
VOTE AT 18

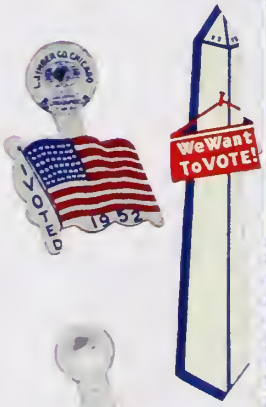

2001
LET'S RECOUNT... ONE FRY FOR YOU... AND TWO FOR ME


I registered to FIGHT!
Did you register to VOTE?

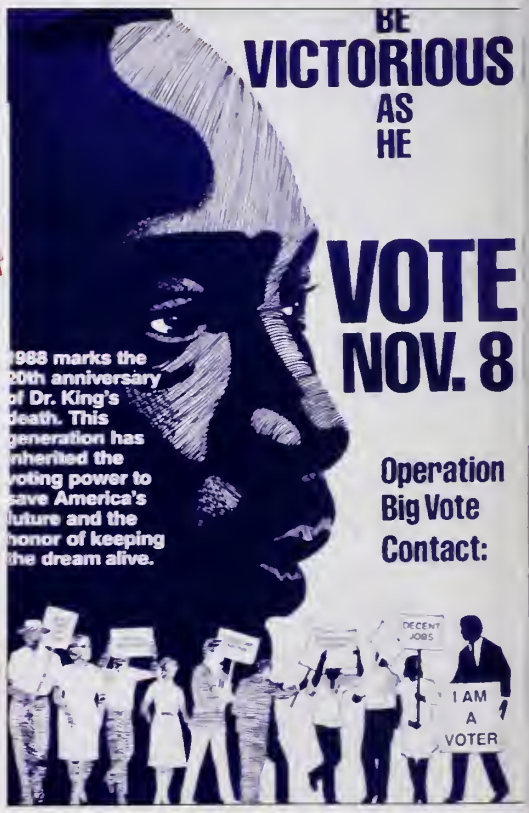

"WE'LL BURY YOU!"
USE YOUR FREEDOM!
VOTE NOV. 8th
COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE VOTERS, INC. • 730 FIFTH AVENUE • N.Y.C.


Vote


HE FOUGHT FOR 76 YEARS TO GET THE RIGHT TO VOTE
...YOU JUST HAD TO TURN 18.
REGISTER AND VOTE!
YOUTH VOTE
FOR REGISTRATION INFO CALL:1-800-VOTER-94


I VOTED 1952
We Want To VOTE!

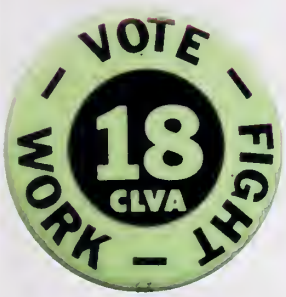

DO A good thing FOR AMERICA vote!
Colonial


BE VICTORIOUS AS HE
VOTE NOV. 8
1988 marks the 20th anniversary of Dr. King's death. This generation has inherited the voting power to save America's future and the honor of keeping the dream alive.
Operation Big Vote Contact:
DECENT JOBS
I AM A VOTER


WORKING
WOMEN
VOTE '96
AFL-CIO
LOCAL 714

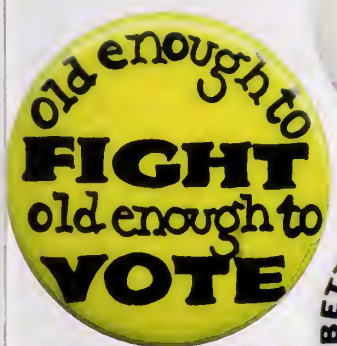

YOUTH AND POLITICS
18
VOTE
SHAWNEE MISSION


Happiness is...
LOWERING
THE
VOTING
AGE

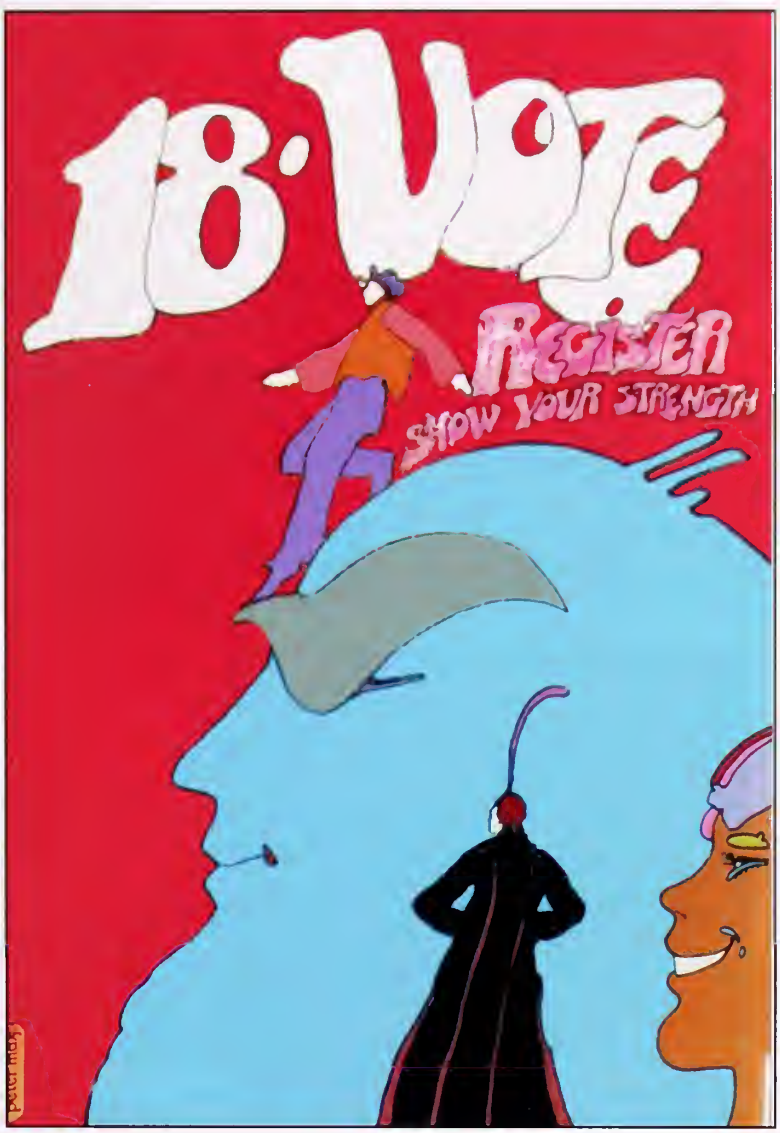

VOTE
18
CLVA
WORK
FIGHT


LET HIM CONTROL HIS FUTURE
18 YR.
VOTE


18
VOTE
NAACP


old enough to
FIGHT
old enough to
VOTE


A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL
18
YEAR-OLD
VOTE...
YES


18 VOTE
REGISTER
SHOW YOUR STRENGTH


VOTE FOR THE BEST MAN?
1000 flowers & stila want you to:
VOTE! ITS a BEAUTIFUL THING!
WWW.1000FLOWERS.ORG
NEW
VOTE
VOTE
THE ADULT
TOOTHPASTE
in new PLASTIC tube
NEW
THE ADULT
TOOTHPASTE
in new PLASTIC tube
VOTE
VOTE
THE ADULT
TOOTHPASTE
NET WT 2.4 OZ
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES
It is your Constitutional Right and your Duty to have a voice in the selection of the men who govern this Country of ours
The way to exercise this Duty and right is by going to the polls on ELECTION DAY !!!
VOTE ... and GET YOUR FRIENDS TO VOTE
TUESDAY NOV 6th
VOTE
VOTE

Thomas Nast, 1864, Harper's Weekly.

Collecting History

NOTE: When I started writing this column, Collecting History, the idea was that others would also write about their personal collections and something about the reasons for their collecting as they do. This is the first of what I hope will be many columns by others sharing with us the experience and joy of collecting. -- Bob Fratkin

A Different Breed of Collectors

By Robert Saypol

Few things in life are more frustrating than being a locals specialist in the vast hobby of collecting political Americana. Like Descartes' aesthetic man, we are doomed to despair by never being able to "complete" our collections.

For those of you out there who can collect a few items from each campaign, or just a few (or many) pieces that you like and enjoy, we locals collectors envy you. Ours is an obsessive, compulsive behavior in that we must have every item to complete our collections. But alas, there is no record to define complete, and always the reward to discover the never before seen or heard of item. After all, how can you get $300 for a $10 button? Find two locals collectors that need it and have an auction!

For me the journey began as a young collector almost 35 years ago. I was twelve years old when my parents dropped me off at my first button show in Meridan, CT. Unbeknownst to me, I had found my holy grail at a flea market a few weeks earlier. As I entered the show, I was a newcomer, surrounded by those experienced collectors. I had my Nixon and McGovern pins including the Teaneck (NJ) for McGovern pin I had gotten in Hebrew school. It didn't take long to feel the excitement when the gathering crowd saw my Harding Coolidge Club of Bloomfield that I had picked up at a flea market a few weeks earlier. A spontaneous auction broke out and I remember leaving with a pocketful of $100 bills. What a fun hobby. I was hooked.

A year later, I started one of the first locals auctions. In order to add credibility, I started collecting New Jersey governor items. Back in the seventies, the quarter boxes were filled with locals. As we entered the 21st century, the prices have shot up often into the hundreds of dollars. A rare local in bad condition may often set records as obsessive locals collectors go head to head.

9

With that introduction (and apologies to Jim Sahol), I am listing my ten favorite New Jersey items:

10) TEANECK FOR MCGOVERN -- Although I had sold 20 into the hobby in the 1970s, I never kept one for myself. Imagine my reaction to paying over $50 for one in the nineties.

9) GOV. WILSON THAT'S ALL -- An unusual silk pin that I found in a NJ estate sale. The red, white and blue colors lead me to believe it may be presidential. What is more unusual is the slogan that matched a local distillery's slogan. Postcards with the

words, "WILSON, THAT'S ALL" in blue on a reddish orange background have often been mistaken for Woodrow (or were they mistaken?)

8) Governor Robert B. Meyner's personal badge to the 1956 democratic convention. A lucky collector was able to purchase Governor Meyner's private collection and sold it to me. Gov. Meyner was a presidential hopeful four years later.

7) DELEGATES FOR COOLIDGE -- a 1924 Calvin Coolidge pin picturing former NJ governor Walter Edge, and future NJ Governor Morgan F. Larson.

6) Only my fellow NJ collectors can appreciate the vote for Lewis G. Hansen (Governor) and George Brunner (US Senate) jugate. Hansen pins are quite rare and I've never seen another Brunner pin.

5) Gen. George B. McClellan inauguration badge. The civil war general and former presidential candidate was elected governor of NJ in 1877. Of the dozen items I have for him as governor in my collection, this badge is unique. More common are anti tokens against Gen (G)un (B)oat McClellan, candied-date for anything sweet. "I couldn't be president in 1865, but I'll be big injun in 1877. I'll be governor of New Jersey!! Hooray!!! Your Orpheus C. Kerr very little 'Mac'." These tokens come in brass, bronze and aluminum. An early example of a negative campaign.

4) HUGHES FOR CONGRESS, A ROOSEVELT DEMOCRAT -- There are two versions of this pin. The black on white version usually sells for about $300. Before a recent trip to a flea market, I had never seen this gray version. Richard J. Hughes lost his election for Congress in 1938, but 23 years later, he was elected governor and reelected four years later. He later served as Chief Justice of the NJ Supreme Court.

3) Hudson County, NJ Parker/Davis/Black trigate -- missing from most Parker collections, this item was actually received by me in lieu of a legal fee in my past career as an attorney.

2) "UNITED REPUBLICAN LEAGUE/GOVERNOR'S DAY ESSEX COUNTY/AUGUST 27,1936/ LANDON AND KNOX/THE FLOWER OF AMERICA" sunflower pin. This is one of three New Jersey sunflower pins related to the Landon campaign in my collection. The other two are Young Republicans of N.J. worker and Gov. Hoffman's Day union County.

8

6

7

10

2A) A recent acquisition from eBay, worthy of this list, is the 7/8" stud for a Princeton graduate in the school's orange color, "SIS-BOOM-AH! TIGER FOR GOVERNOR/ALEXANDER T. McGILL/CLASS OF 1864"

1) The piece-de-resistance and arguably the best local of the 20th century is this personal badge and ribbon for the president of the Woodrow Wilson Democratic Club, saying "INAUGURATION, GOV WOODROW WILSON 1911." Unknown and dated, this pin was offered at a local auction. My wife was not pleased when, in preparation for this auction, I obtained a second mortgage on the house. Thankfully, I did not need the entire proceeds!

1

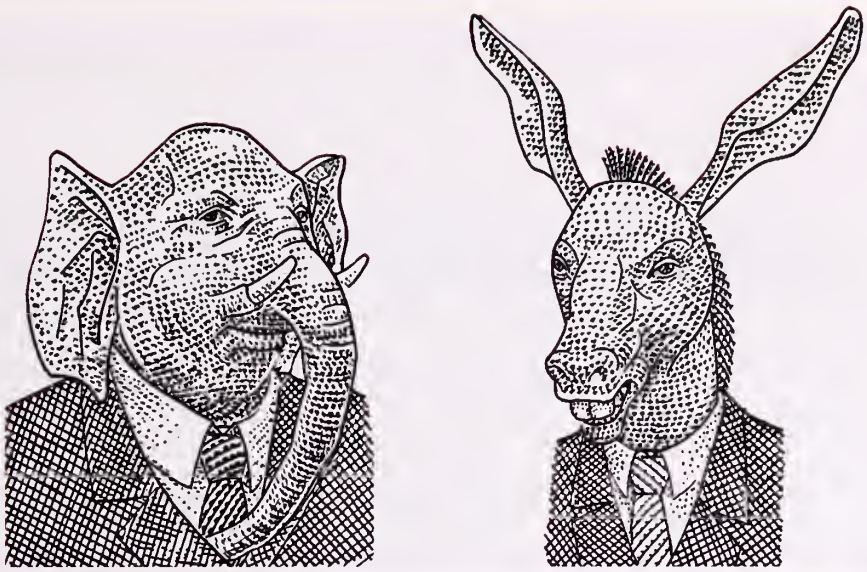

5

4

2a

2

3



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DOWJONES

Preserving History - The Crisis in American Education

By Brian Krapf

American history is under attack. Strangely, the attackers are not the entities you immediately suspect from today's headlines. Rather, the attackers are within our own schools and classrooms. Historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author David McCullougl refers to the modern era as the "Age of Historical Illiteracy."

There are many dedicated teachers and professors -- including many who are APIC members -- who take their positions seriously and make tremendous efforts to ensure that today's youth know the difference between Benjamin Harrison and George Harrison. Sadly, though, these enthusiastic and dedicated professionals are the exception, rather than the norm. The federal Department of Education has done a tremendous disservice in "dumbing down" and revising history textbooks and curriculum. Alarmingly, these textbooks have been revised to omit political movements, causes and personalities because of "political correctness." The effect is that we have a whole generation of students who do not know the basics. As a direct example, look at the numerous historical errors in eBay listings -- I recently found references to Bobby Kenney and William Churchill. These are not typos -- the sellers are demonstrating a definitive lack of historical knowledge, which translates into illiteracy.

Every year, McCullough polls his honors history students at the beginning of the Fall semester -- these are Ivy League students, purportedly the best of the best. Time and time again, these students think that US Grant was a General in the Revolutionary War, cannot place the historical significance of Valley Forge, don't know who Dwight Eisenhower was, and have never heard of D-Day. I hope you are as appalled as I am and consider this lack of knowledge and permeating mediocrity a slap in the face to those who spilled their blood or took a stand for their beliefs. Over 3000 US soldiers gave their lives on D-Day to liberate innocents from an evil and ruthless dictatorship -- they must never be forgotten. Nor can we ever forget the many who suffered the long harsh winter at Valley Forge, deprived of the basic comforts we've long taken for granted, so that we could become a nation. This is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue- it is an AMERICAN issue. It transcends political ideology and directly affects the fundamental understanding and appreciation of the fabric of our country .

We, as APIC members, are dedicated and enthusiastic conservators of America's political past. We don't merely collect items; we study and write about them, talk about their use, and preserve them so that they can be studied by or passed to others who share our interests. I don't care if you are a conservator of George Washington or George Bush items; ALL items are studied and documented by our membership to complete the historical timeline of American democracy.

As conservators, we have a unique responsibility -- we are soldiers in the war against historical illiteracy. I have asked you before and will ask you again -- attack this nationwide dilemma by displaying your collection in the local library. Speak at a civic club. Volunteer to give a presentation at a local school. Any effort made by each of us -- one by one -- combats this national epidemic.

APIC, nationally registered as a 501(c)(3) educational organization, is also fighting in this war. Our *Keynoter* will continue to advance and enjoy its status as the flagship political history publication; while it reaches a wide audience now, our medium range goal is to offer it in nationwide specialty markets. Additionally, I have asked every show manager to ensure local schools are notified of our events, and to offer extra credit slips to students who attend. More so, our website will feature free downloads for teachers -- they will be able to utilize a database specifically designed for them, from which they can access material to use in their classrooms. Lastly, in the past, APIC has provided grants and seed money for specific educational projects, and will continue this practice as long as we are satisfied that we are making a difference.

Join your fellow APIC members who have already been fighting in this all volunteer army. The schools won't do it, the books can't do it, so its up to us, individually and collectively. Bobby Kenney and William Churchill will soon be joined by others if we remain silent and do nothing.

Handheld Microscope Important Tool When Collecting Political Photographs

by Steve Baxley

Political items collectors seldom think about it, but two types of images are on most of their political items: photographs or photo-mechanicals. A photograph is made by the interaction of light or other energy with chemicals, while most photo-mechanicals involve a printing press pressing ink against paper. The pictures in the Keynoter are photo-mechanical prints, not actual photographs.

This distinction becomes important when a collector is buying a photograph. The copy machine has made it easier to reproduce photographic images. Some photo-mechanicals are so good that it is impossible to tell the difference without using a microscope. This is where the handheld illuminated microscope can help determine the difference. If a seller states that a postcard is a real photo postcard, how do know? A 30X or higher microscope can show you. The handheld microscope is also sometimes called a pocket microscope.

Under the microscope, a photo-mechanical print will be made up of tiny dots or a honeycomb pattern. A real photograph will show subtle tones. It will almost seem that you can't get the microscope in focus. Photo-mechanical images are just as collectible as photographic images, but if you want to make sure you a really buying a photograph, the handheld microscope is an excellent tool. Illuminated handheld microscopes of 30X can be purchased for about $30. You may find even better prices on the Internet. Find out if those CDVs, cabinet cards, or other political photographs are real photos. When a seller tells you that an item is a real photo, check it out. Invest in a handheld microscope.

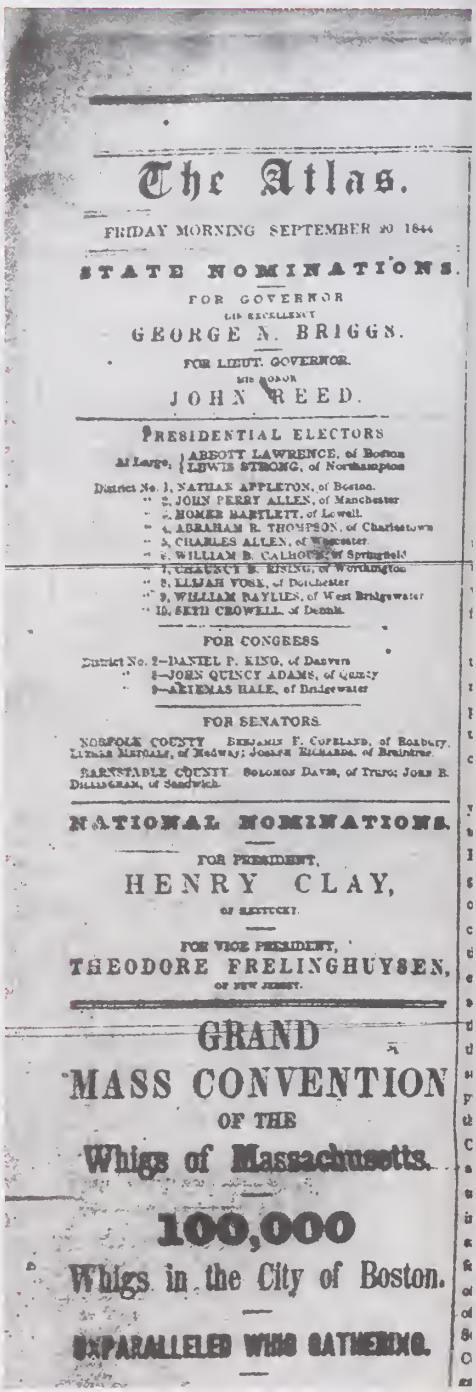
The Great Whig Meeting in Boston: September 19, 1844

By Kim Gelke

"The Whig Mass Convention, which was held in this city yesterday, is said to have surpassed, in numbers and enthusiasm, any that was ever held in New England before. The number of persons present was greater than that which assisted at the great Harrison Convention of September 10, 1840." Thus began the description of the day's events as reported by *The Boston Courier*, September 20, 1844 edition, one of the pro-Whig newspapers of the city. In fact, The *Boston Atlas*, another pro-Whig paper, put the number of attendees at 100,000, an "unparalleled Whig gathering." Of course, all were there to support their Whig champion, Henry Clay of Kentucky, for the Presidency in 1844.

The festivities began on Sept. 18, 1844, following the arrival of Whig delegations from throughout New England and 13 additional states. They came by rail, stagecoach and steamboat in the week before the event. The South was represented by Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky, while the Midwest sent supporters from Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. New York, which "came out nobly", New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland were also represented. That evening there was a torchlight procession of the Boston Young Men's Whig Club to Roxbury, where they were received by the Roxbury and Lynn Clay Clubs. They then all marched back to Boston, where they called upon Cassius M. Clay, one of many dignitaries involved in the convention, who "expressed his gratification at such a mark of respect, it being an honor he had not anticipated." (For more on presidential hopeful Cassius Clay, see the Spring 1991 *Keynoter*.) In all, there were 450 marchers and 85 torches, the *Courier* noted.

"Heaven smiled upon us, with one of the brightest mornings that it ever opened to mortal eyes," according to the *Atlas* of September 20, 1844. As the enthusiastic Clay supporters gathered, "it was impossible to pass through the streets any kind of vehicle." The Boston Common was the center of the meeting, and it "was a grand harmonious blending of every interest in our community. All were pervaded with a deep sense of the necessity of firm, energetic and concentrated action to overturn the evil counsels by which our Country has been so longed swayed." At noon, the grand cavalcade began, led by Gen. John S. Tyler, accompanied by gentlemen of the city and neighboring towns. They were followed by 23 carriages holding the guests of honor, Cassius M. Clay and Daniel Webster among them, along with important Whig luminaries. George Briggs and John Reed, candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, were included. A large band followed. Then came the committees of Arrangements and Reception, the state delegations, the Massachusetts delegates, the local Clay Clubs, and finally, the representatives of the 12 wards of Boston. The parade lasted almost 2 hours, and had an estimated 20,000 marchers!



The Atlas.

FRIDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 20 1844

STATE NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR
HIS EXCELLENCY
GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR.
HIS HONOR
JOHN REED.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

At Large, ABBOTT LAWRENCE, of Boston
LEWIS STRONG, of Northampton

District No. 1, NATHAN APPLETON, of Boston.
" 2, JOHN PERRY ALLEN, of Manchester
" 3, HOMER HASTLETT, of Lowell.
" 4, ABRAHAM R. THOMPSON, of Charlestown
" 5, CHARLES ALLEN, of Worcester.
" 6, WILLIAM B. CALHOUN, of Springfield
" 7, CHAUNCY E. RISING, of Worthington
" 8, ELIJAH VOSE, of Dorchester
" 9, WILLIAM BAYLIES, of West Bridgewater
" 10, SETH CROWELL, of Dennis.

FOR CONGRESS

District No. 2—DANIEL P. KING, of Danvers
" 3—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, of Quincy
" 9—ARTEMAS HALE, of Bridgewater

FOR SENATORS.

NORFOLK COUNTY. BENJAMIN F. COPELAND, of Roxbury. LUTHER METCALF, of Medway; JOSIAH RICHARDS, of Braintree.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY. SOLOMON DAVIS, of Truro; JOHN B. DILLINGHAM, of Sandwich.

NATIONAL NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT,
HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN,
OF NEW JERSEY.

GRAND
MASS CONVENTION
OF THE
Whigs of Massachusetts.

100,000
Whigs in the City of Boston.

UNPARALLELED WHIG GATHERING.

The newspapers described in great detail the parade route, and noted the decorations. "The streets through which the procession passed were splendidly decorated with flags, mottoes, devices, etc., and many wore the tasteful hand of women." Warren Street was "lined with flags extending over the street, hanging in graceful festoons." On Washington Street, across from Boylston Market, a large banner read "This Tree was planted in 1614, pruned by the order of the Sons of Liberty Nov. 14, 1766, and cut down by the British army, 1777." Another banner noted the residence of Samuel Adams, the "Patriot Whig of the Revolution."

On State Street, the site of the Boston Massacre, was a banner reading "The first drop of blood was here shed, and millions were involved in the consequences." On the offices of the Boston Atlas was a banner reading, "Our glorious Union as it is - let the Lone Star shine by itself; our galaxy is complete." (This is a reference to the proposed annexation of Texas.) On Blackstone Street, "stores No. 40-45 were trimmed with evergreens, bouquets of dahlias and draped with flags and streamers with the names Clay and Frelinghuysen and the motto, 'Our Cause is Just, Our Union Perfect' formed in evergreen letters." It was "the most beautiful and tasteful decoration of the day." On Paul Revere's home a banner proclaiming him the 'Whig Mechanic and Patriot" appeared, and a flag with "No Annexation with Slavery, 1776-1844, Liberty and Equality." On Salem Street, at the headquarters of the First Ward Whigs, was a banner with "Our Fathers -- Whigs in 1776, Their Sons -- True in 1844." By the North Church hung another banner proclaiming "Old Hal of Ashland -- old in the service of his country, he deserves his country's best reward!" The Green Dragon tavern, on Union Street, was described as the "rally spot of the Whig Mechanics of 1776." The home of Benjamin Franklin displayed a banner crediting him as the "Whig Patriot and Philosopher." Elm Street was "a perfect arch of flags and had an exceedingly gay appearance." Finally it was noted that "on the streets through which the procession passed the balconies were most beautifully and unsurpassingly decorated with the bright eyes and lovely forms of the Whig daughters of Massachusetts, who graced the city with their presence."

Whig Mass Meeting on Boston Common, September 19, 1844.

The *Atlas* and *Courier* also gave detailed descriptions of each of the delegations, commenting on their number, banners and any notable contribution to the parade. The cavalcade had "a splendid crimson flag with a portrait of George Washington and 'Our Cause is Just." The band carried a "splendid blue silk flag with Henry Clay Young Men's Association of New York." Also noted was a banner with " a portrait of Henry Clay, flanked by national flags in medallions, surmounted by an eagle… the Young Guard, Justice to Henry Clay." A New Hampshire banner proclaimed, "Justice to Harry of the West" below a portrait with an eagle above. A Michigan banner read "Pledged to Henry Clay - Wait until November." Other banners called Clay the "Star that never sets", proclaimed him as the defender of Freedom and Protection and the Whigs as "Protectionist, but never Pro-Texanist." A banner of the Whig First Presidential Voter Association read "Whig Principles, Protect Sailor's Rights." The 12th Ward banner read, "The people are coming, the ball is in motion, Resistless and free, like the waves of the ocean." Others read, "Clay and Frelinghuysen, can't be anybody else", "Our Cause is Just -- if Faithful, our Success Certain", and "Clay-Our Watch Word and our Hope".

Descriptions of many of the more interesting displays were also given. The Lynn Clay Club had a platform "upon which was a ship, labeled Clay and Protection, neat as a pin" with a "prosperous appearance", and another ship labeled "Free Trade, Polk and Texas, in miserable condition, men looking poor and miserable…a capital illustration". There was also a 'well dressed comfortable looking man, with a very fat coon at his heels -- motto: Protection, Union and Prosperity" followed by " a ragged individual, a frame for a coon at his heels and the motto Free Trade, Texas and Salt River". "The 'Lady Washington,' on a platform drawn by four white horses, tandem, containing 26 little girls, each one with a small flag, representing the 26 states. This was the most beautiful feature in the procession."

After the marchers had re-assembled on the Common, Jonathan Chapman, Chairman of the State Central Committee, offered opening remarks. In his welcome, Mr. Chapman said, "Mr. Clay is a long-tried, intelligent, upright, and truly American statesman, who will act for the country which he has ever served: whilst Mr. Polk is unknown, but as the creature of a party which has proved itself false to the character, the credit, and the interests of the nation." He also included a slap at President John Tyler. (Whig anger at President Tyler was sharp, as the former Democrat had been elected Vice President in 1840 on the Whig "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" ticket, assumed the Presidency after William Henry Harrison's death and then reverted to his previous Democratic stance, leaving the Whigs empty handed.) Chapman then introduced Daniel Webster, whose speech "closed in the midst of a thunder of applause." At 5:00 PM the meeting adjourned, but at 7:00 PM Cassius M. Clay spoke at the Tremont Temple. His speech, which lasted over an hour, was "received with rounds of oft repeated applause."

Despite the great show of support shown on that glorious mid-September day in Boston, in less than two months Prince Hal went down to defeat for the third time. James K. Polk gained the White House. While we remember Henry Clay as "The Great Compromiser", the true Whig believers at the Grand Convention would have much preferred he be remembered as Henry Clay, 12th President of the United States.

The illustrations show some of the ribbons produced for this event, as well as for some of the participating Clay Clubs mentioned in the accounts.

Sources for the descriptions noted above are The *Boston Atlas* and The *Boston Courier* of Sept. 20, 1844.

Kim Gelke (APIC #8298) is a physician who lives in Champaign, Illinois and has been collecting primarily Henry Clay items for over 20 years. He shares the political hobby with his brother, Mark Gelke (APIC #5230)

CLAY
AND
FRELINGHUYSEN.

Liberty Tree.

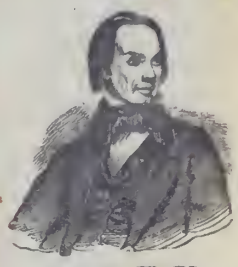
BOSTON, SEPT. 19,
1844

COMMITTEE
OF
ARRANGEMENTS.

LYNN,
Sept. 4 1844.

WARD 12.

"Our Cause is just—our Union perfect."



WHIG
Mass Convention
SEPTEMBER 19th.
1844

BOSTON
No 1.
CLAY CLUB.

MASS CONVENTION.

WARD 4.

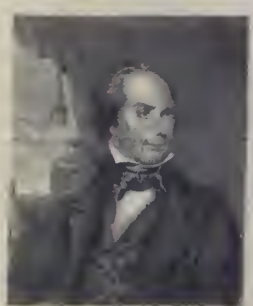
WHIG DELEGATION.

September 19th, 1844.

NEWBURYPORT.

Sept. 19th, 1844.

BOSTON
YOUNG MENS
WHIG CLUB.



MASSACHUSETTS
WHIG CONVENTION.
SEPT 19.1844.

WARD IX.

CLAY
AND
FRELINGHUYSEN.

Profiles In Deed

APIC Hall Of Fame: Joseph G. Brown, APIC #95

By Al Salter

Joe Brown is the quintessential model for serious collectors of political memorabilia. He has spent most of his life actively involved in politics, starting as a teenager in 1948 when he campaigned for Tom Dewey. He worked as an aide to U.S. Senator Robert Taft, "Mr. Republican" himself, four years later, and eventually chaired the Greater Milwaukee Area campaign committee, coordinating the efforts of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush to put Wisconsin in the Republican column. Joe also attended every Republican National Convention from 1952 to 1996 with the exception of 1956 when he was on duty with Uncle Sam.

He was a junior at Marquette University when he joined Senator Taft who was challenging Dwight Eisenhower for the Republican presidential nomination in 1952. When Taft lost to Ike, Joe and the seven other members of the senator's campaign staff were invited to the Eisenhower suite in Chicago's old Blackstone Hotel to meet the General and Mamie, and the following January Joe attended the Inaugural Ball. He was seated in a box next to former President Herbert Hoover, with whom he had a chance to talk.

He had also met President Truman when he arrived at the Capitol for the inauguration. 1952 was a heady time for the young politico. During Joe's association with Taft, the senator would receive buttons used in his father's presidential campaigns of 1908 and 1912, and he'd pass these along to Joe, sparking what would become a life-long love of political memorabilia.

Joe Brown (left) with then-APIC President Gene McGreevy in 1972.

That same year, one of APIC's early leaders, F. Joseph O'Neill of West Orange, New Jersey, knowing of Joe's interest while he was working with Taft, urged the young student to become the 95th member of the seven-year-old collector organization. Joe had acquired every 1952 campaign button he could buy, borrow, or finagle, but after joining APIC his collecting focus expanded to include medals, badges, and silk ribbons, especially those of the nineteenth century. He appreciated the designs and engravings that made these items true works of art, and he took great pleasure in placing select parts of his collection on display.

In those years Joe took an annual two-week driving trip to visit dealers such as Ken Broyles and Charlie McSorley, and to haunt antique, coin, and collectibles shops, until he found something that fit into his collection.

He also frequently traded with J. Doyle DeWitt, one of the premier collectors in the country. With the later development of regional shows and mail catalogs, the art of one-on-one trading among APIC members has now all but disappeared.

In the late 1950s when the APIC began to lose its vitality, Joe wrote to the leaders asking that a member meeting be held to plan the organization's future. He also suggested that a publication be initiated to generate member interest in what other collectors were doing. It was a time when the average celluloid sold for less than $1.00, and a 1 1/4" John W. Davis button could be had for $4.00. Joe was by then an avid collector, anxious to see APIC find firm ground on which to grow.

As many activists discover once they become involved in an organization, if you want something done, you'd better do it yourself. APIC's first historian, Ed Sullivan, reminds us, "As a member of the group that saved APIC from dissolution in 1960, Joe Brown has been a significant influence in shaping the APIC that we know today."

For many years Joe served on the reorganized executive board, worked on a number of policy committees and as APIC's second historian, chaired the national APIC conventions in 1972 and 1989, and made frequent contributions to *The Keynoter*.

In 1993 he received APIC's Joe Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award to add to his Hall of Fame recognition. He continues to exhibit at APIC conventions, and at institutions in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas.

In more than fifty years of collecting political memorabilia, Joe has purchased over 150 collections, some of only a few items, but others with hundreds of artifacts, and one totaling over 15,000 pieces. In his quest for items he met John Kennedy and Jimmy Carter, and numerous other political luminaries, and in 1980 he appeared on the Today Show with Tom Brokaw, displaying parts of his collection. He has also made numerous trips to catalog and curate the collection of John W. Barkley, one of APIC's founders, which is now maintained at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Who is this remarkable man? Joe is the first to tell you that his collecting and activity in APIC is one way he relaxes, getting away from the stress of a demanding career in which he has worked as controller, secretary, or treasurer for various insurance firms, in addition to serving two years in the Army handling court martial assignments. He retired from the AON Corporation in 1994, but still puts in half-days at the office.

Joe Brown was an active volunteer with Robert Taft's 1952 race for the Republican presidential nomination

Joe is a family man. He and his wife, Elaine, have seen four children through college, and are grandparents nine times over. Travel is another means of relaxation and the Browns have visited over forty countries together. Joe claims they're not through yet. Just as he's not through with the many contributions he makes to the APIC.

After all, with Joe's energy there's no better way to relax than to keep busy at something you love doing. That's Joe and APIC.

Paper hat.

FDR Connoisseur

A long time APIC collector (13018) is in search of a few good clocks, lamps and decoration pieces to add to his unique collection. If you have any of the following in your possession, available for sale or trade, feel free to contact him at MARCUS6705@COMCAST.NET

One light between twin barrels.

Lighted bust lamp.

Marked FDR instead of NRA!

Decoration piece w/no lamp.

Prosperity under the blue eagle.

NRA Eagle

Bar scene on bottom.

CLASSIC COLLECTOR AUCTION

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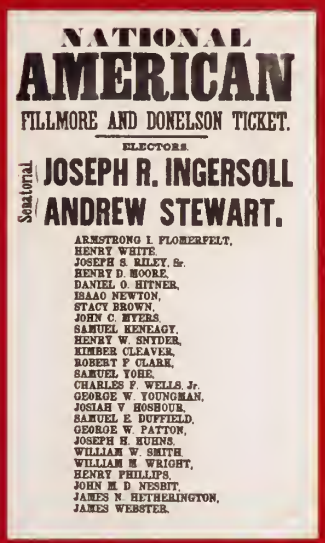
1840 William Henry Harrison on Horseback Campaign Textile



Scarce 1856 Fillmore/Donelson Presidential Campaign Printed Broadside on Oilcloth!

1860 Abraham Lincoln Portrait Campaign Ribbon

1860 Abraham Lincoln Portrait Campaign Ribbon

1860 Stephen Douglas Portrait Campaign Ribbon

1892 Benjamin Harrison Campaign Portrait Flag

Tough Matched Trio for the 1924 Presidential Campaign - Coolidge, Davis and La Follette (3)

Very Desirable Jumbo 4" 1960 JFK "Our Next President" Pinback

Mastro's Classic Collector Auction October 26th
Bidding begins Oct. 9th at www.mastroauctions.com

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$8,652

Woshington Inougurol Clothing Button
$4,600

Douglos Currier & Ives Print
$3,968

Washington Lorge Size Curtain Tie-Bocks
$6,000

Reagon's Cor Inaugural License Plates
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$3,342

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$3,637

Lincaln Ferrotype
$2,347

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