

SPRING 2024

Volume 2024 • Number 1 • \$5.00

THE

KEYNOTER

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS COLLECTORS



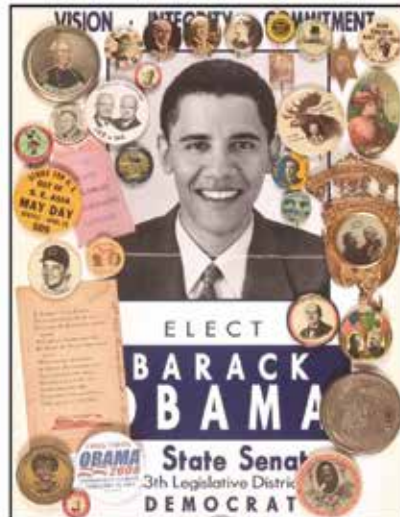
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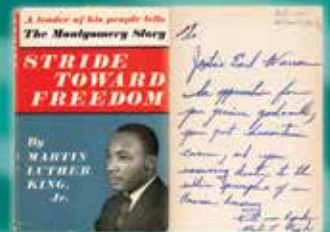
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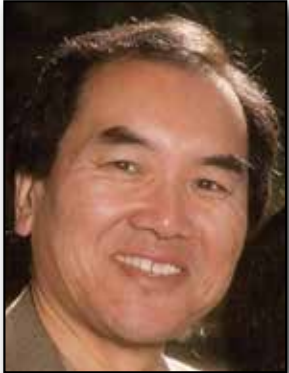


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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT



The American Political Items Collectors (APIC) is celebrating a milestone of sorts this month that’s kind of like a “baker’s dozen.” Many of our veteran collectors know the throwback term refers to receiving a bonus doughnut or cookie after ordering a dozen. Your bonus this month is the 13th issue of *The Keynoter* under the leadership of Editor Tom Peeling and his team. I hope you enjoy the variety and quality of the stories they continue presenting. This publication is also a fantastic way to stay connected with your fellow collectors.

As I write this month’s column, the new APIC Website is still in staging. However, by the time *The Keynoter* goes to print, the new portal URL would have been announced and gone live. So, I hope you visit the new website and are enjoying it. Your APIC Website Committee, along with our website development partner, Morweb, began this process this past year and we are proud of the finished product. The new portal is a cornerstone in our ongoing efforts to enhance the value of your membership and attract the next generation of collectors. I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions for further website enhancements down the road.

There are also new developments involving the 2024 APIC National Convention in Seven Springs, PA, from Aug. 5-10. Online registration should now be available on the new APIC Website. Many thanks to Webmaster Lon Ellis for developing a streamlined process that makes registration easy. We strongly encourage you to use the online portal. The registration form also will be included in upcoming issues of *The Political Bandwagon*. More about the National in this issue of *The Keynoter*.

As with past Nationals, the 2024 Seven Springs National Committee is seeking sponsors to help support the event. There are four sponsor levels: Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$750), Silver (\$500), and Bronze (\$250). Sponsorship is a great way to show your support for our biggest and best show of the year. For further information, please contact Convention Chair Jack Dixey at dixeycitylimits@yahoo.com.

The APIC is grateful to the businesses and individuals who advertise in the pages of *The Keynoter*. This publication is a great vehicle to advertise your products to the membership, and for collectors to reach out to their colleagues in search of special wants. The ad rate is shown here. If you commit to buying ads for a full year (four consecutive issues), you will receive a 15-percent discount. For further information, please contact Darla Gonzalez at askdarlag@gmail.com.

Happy reading and stay safe.

Cary Jung, President, APIC

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



As I completed my third year as *Keynoter* Editor, I took some time to look back on the previous issues. I've been thrilled with the response from our members to contribute to their organization's main

publication. While I have asked some to write stories, others have offered to contribute with no prodding from me. I appreciate those the most probably because the ideas are ones that I might never have thought about, and from collections those folks have that I knew nothing about.

We've had first-person articles from people involved in historical events, stories about collectors and their collections, and then some straight history stories. The knowledge from our members just amazes me. We're like our own version of political Wikipedia. I've tried to encourage folks to write letters to the editor, too, about things they like and don't like. This issue is a good example.

All that said, I'd like to encourage folks who have not yet written for *The Keynoter* to give it a try. Contact me at TRbuttons@aol.com and let's talk about your idea. I'd love to have even more variety in our stable of writers. And to those who have written, my heartfelt thanks. You make our publication better.

Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

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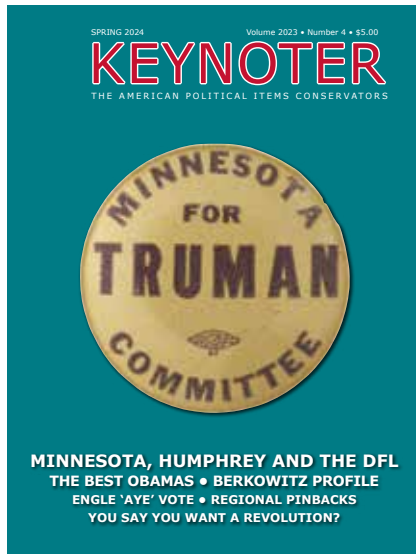
How the Country Saw Equality

NEXT ISSUE-- America's Only Assassinated Governor

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, or .jpg file to TRbuttons@aol.com. 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 losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, 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 or on a CD or DVD.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I'd like to add to the Mort Berkowitz tribute (member profile, Winter 2023 Keynoter). Several years ago, I traveled by train to St. Louis for the APIC convention. After the convention, Mort spotted me at the train station as we awaited the train to Chicago. He noticed that I was traveling alone and insisted that I join his wife and children in Chicago as they visited several sites in the city. Mort, his wife, and children included me and were wonderful. What a wonderful man (and family).

-Mary McGreal, APIC 1443

Letters to the Editor continued page 35.

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Apic Newsletter and Calendar of Events: Harvey Goldberg, Editor, PO Box 922, Clark NJ 07066. email: heg1@verizon.net

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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Kennedys in the Comics

By Harvey Goldberg, APIC 3158

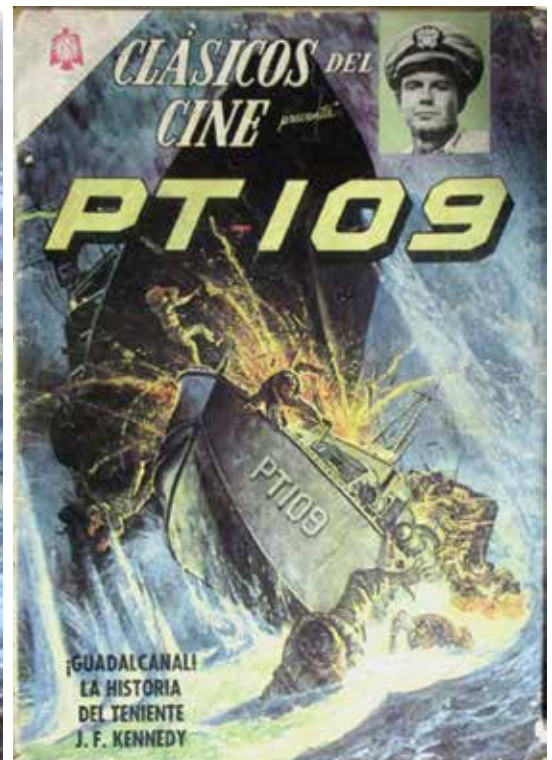
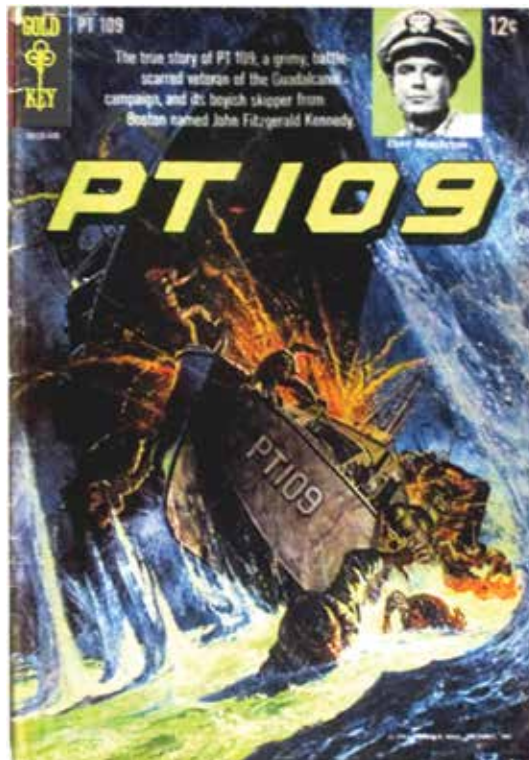
Specializing in a candidate or campaign doesn't mean a collection has to lack variety. There are many different types of political items to collect: pinbacks, posters, 3-D items, multitudes of paper items, and much more. Among Kennedy items, for example, there are a significant number of comic books made during and shortly after the Kennedy years.

Comic book collecting can be very different from collecting politicals. One major difference is that we don't often know how many different buttons were issued for any candidates, campaigns, or issues, or how many of each were produced. Many years after the fact, previously unknown or previously unseen politicals still surface. With comic books, much of that information is printed right in the comics, usually at the bottom of the first page: publisher, date, edition, series, and more. From these sources you can usually find the number of copies printed.

Comic books, unlike a campaign button, have a large number of people involved in their creation. While comics might come from the ideas of a single writer, the labor of creating them is frequently divided between a number of specialists, including a writer, an artist, an inker, background colorist, and a letterer to name some of them. Their specific jobs and titles can vary from one publishing house to another.

Most collectors are aware of the more common Kennedy comic books. But there are many lesser-known comics that feature them or where they make cameo appearances.

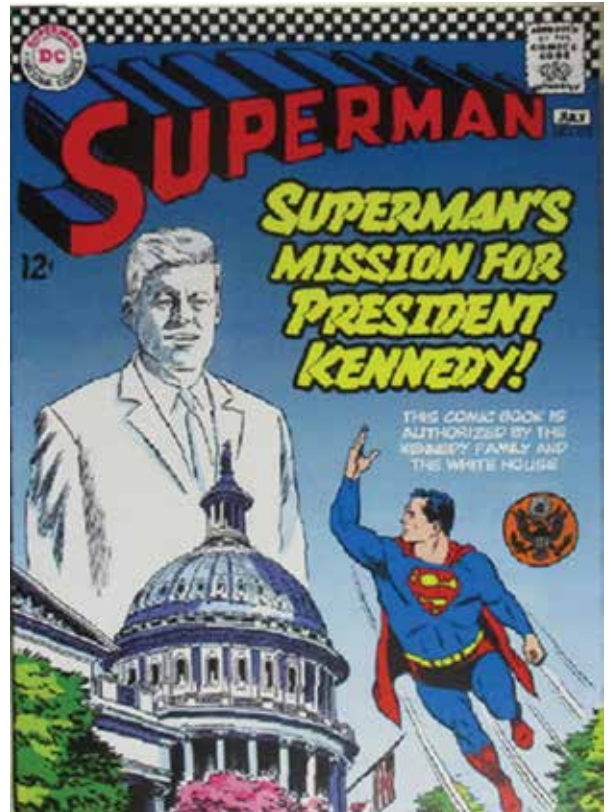
There are four PT-109 comics; The 1964 *Gold Key* comic in English and in Spanish were the earliest, a printed version of the movie starring Cliff Robertson. The April 1968 edition of *War Heroes* featured a 6-page story of the PT-109, and the 1971 *Combat* was a biographical story of the sinking and survival. Of the four, the Spanish *PT-109* and the *War Heroes* are the most difficult to find.





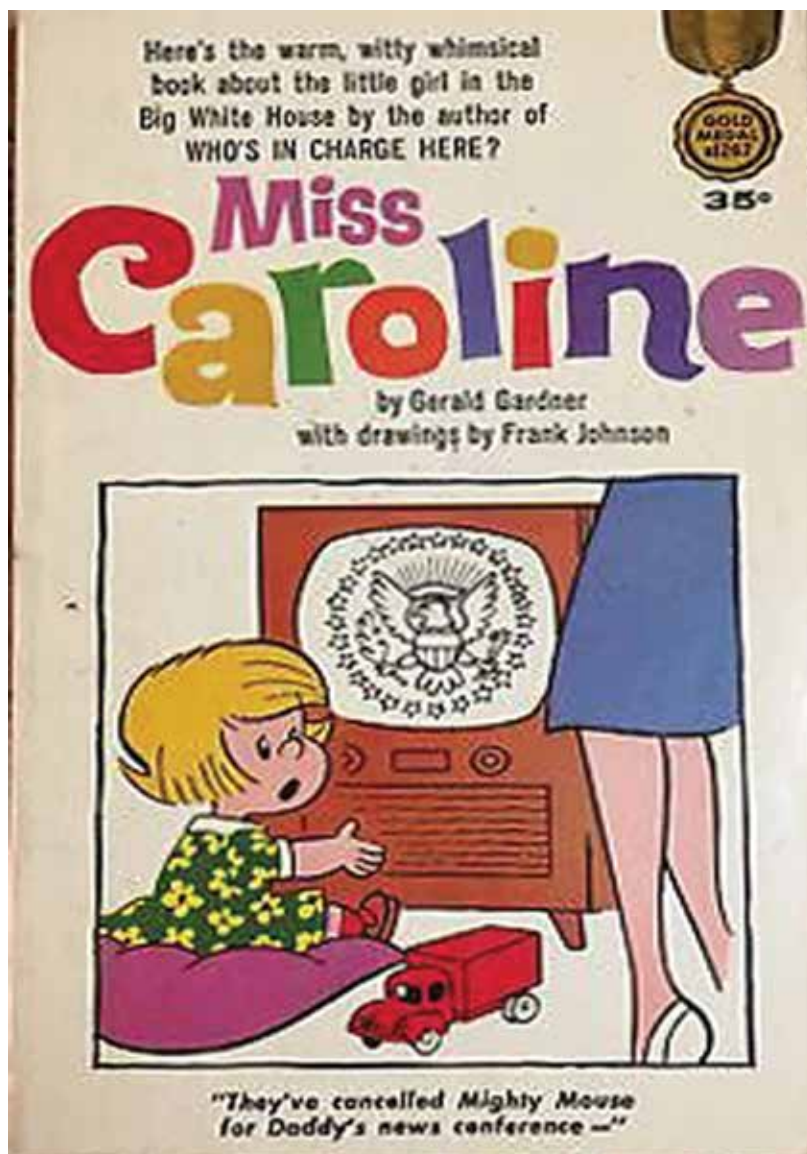
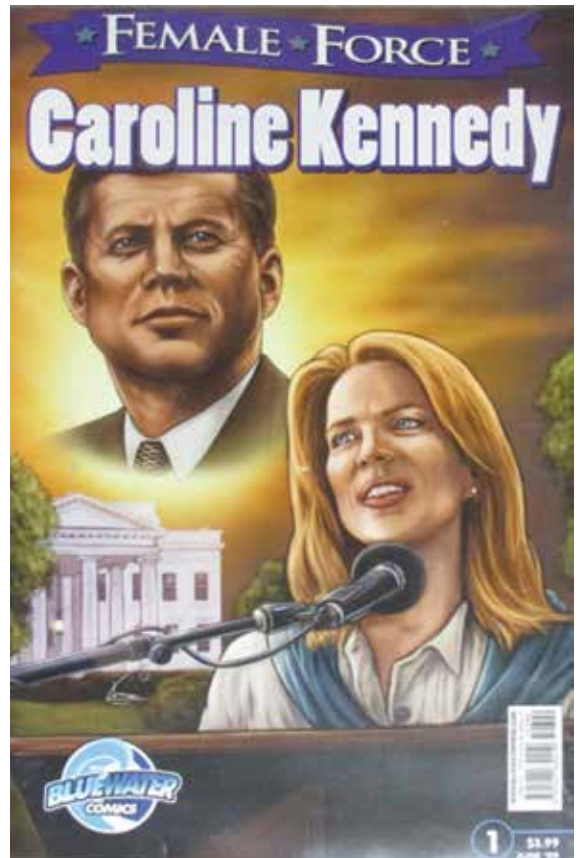
Action Comics' *Superman No. 309* (February 1964) has President Kennedy masquerading as Clark Kent to protect Superman's secret identity when they are to appear together on a TV show. The really interesting issue, D.C. Comic's *Superman No. 170* (July 1964) was originally scheduled for *Superman No. 168*, but it was shelved when Kennedy was assassinated. Lyndon Johnson later told DC Comics that the issue should be published as a tribute to JFK. The cover was changed with the original version being used as the first page of the comic book, but the story was the original. An Archie Comic with a similar story was planned but never published.





Two Caroline Kennedy comic books were printed during the Kennedy presidency in 1961-1963 and included JFK, Jackie, Caroline, and her brother, JFK, Jr. *The Caroline Kennedy: America's Young Lady* featured her along with her mother. Those two included coloring pages and puzzles along with a simple story line. The *Miss Caroline* is a comic book version of the 1963 boxed set of Caroline Kennedy paper napkins.

The Female Force – Caroline Kennedy comic style book (2009) is a 36-page biography, part of a series by BlueWater Comics. It has a simplified and limited story line, part of a series that included Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Barbara Walters, and Michelle Obama.



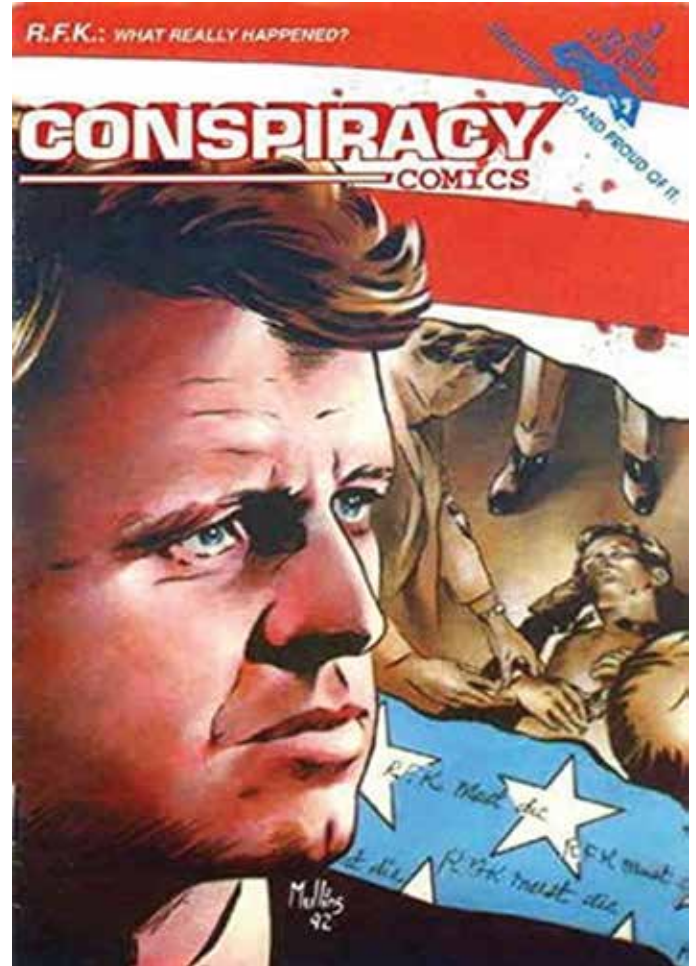
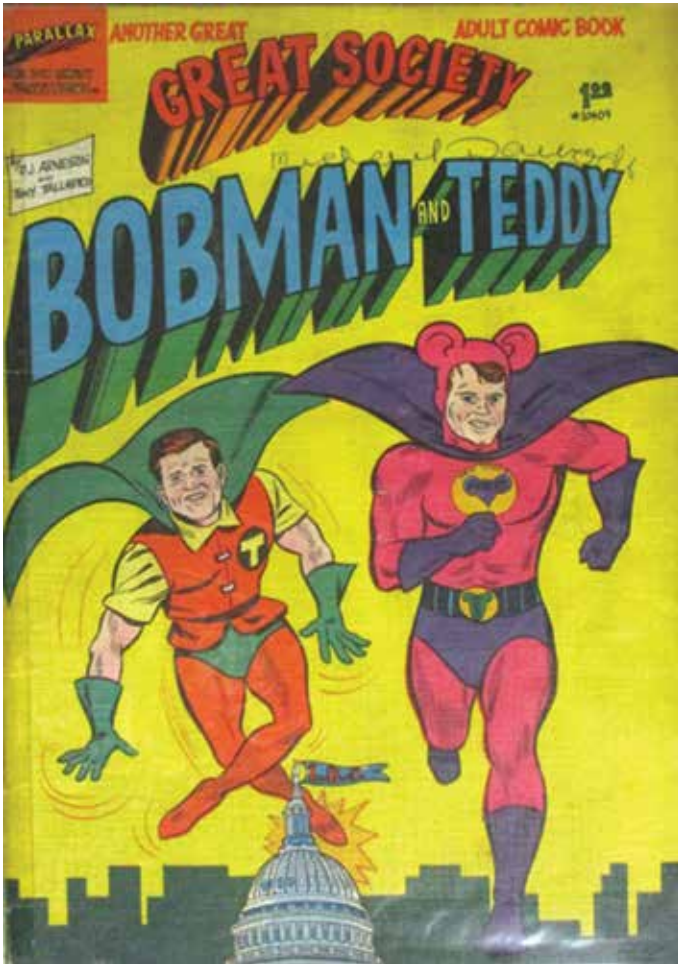
Early in 1961, the State Department issued comic books to introduce the new President Kennedy at United States embassies throughout the world, printed in the native languages of each country where the U.S. had an embassy.

JFK also made a number of appearances in *MAD Magazine*, including a dual-cover issue in January 1961. The front cover offered congratulations to Kennedy for his election and the back cover offered the same to Richard Nixon. Though they are not true 'comic books,' their format and content often have them connected with comics.

Other Kennedy-related comic books offered pro- and anti-Kennedy covers and features such as the 1966 Parallax Comics *The Great Society* and its companion, *Bobman and Ted* as Batman and Robin. Jacqueline Kennedy made an extensive appearance in *Forbidden Worlds Herbie*, a 1963 one-time issue. Unwelcome additions to this list were the obvious trash-type comics with ghoulish artist-created images.

The January 1992 issue of *Conspiracy Comics* featured Robert F. Kennedy as its central theme. And Ted Kennedy appeared in the November 2009 issue of BlueWater Comics as part of a planned series entitled '*Political Power*'. EMK had his own anti-comic, calling him the 'black sheep' of the family.



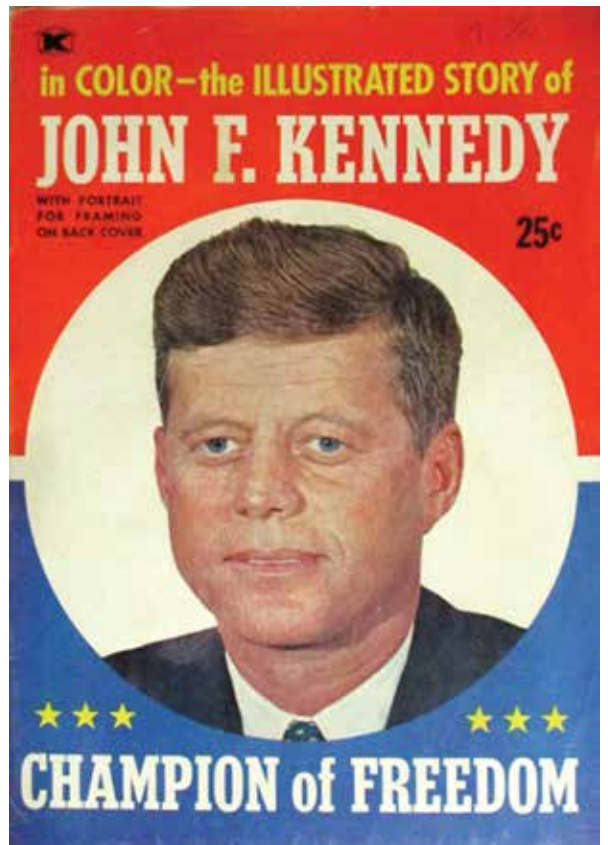
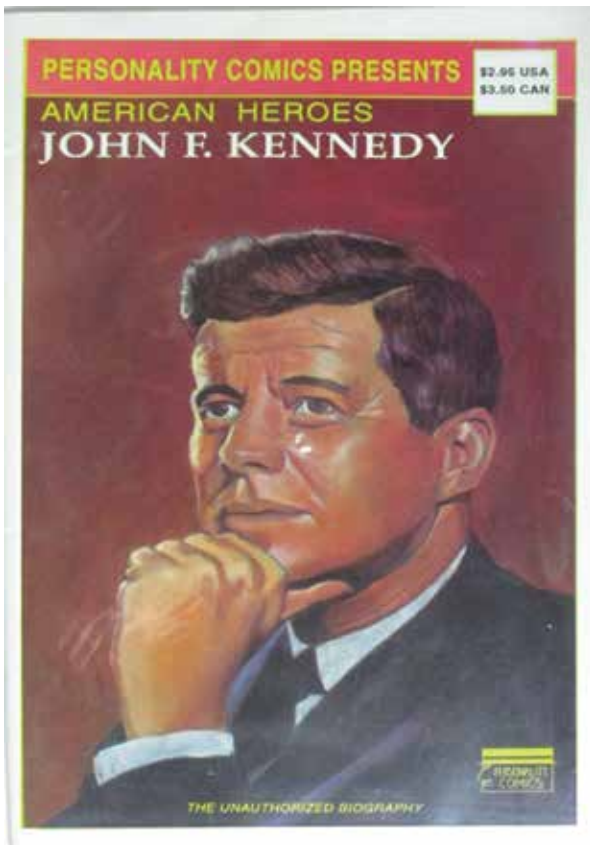
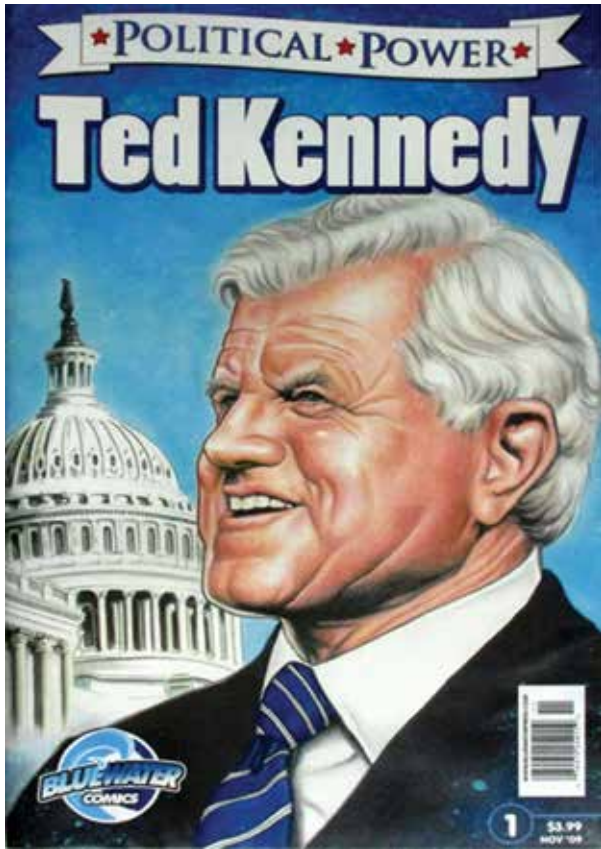


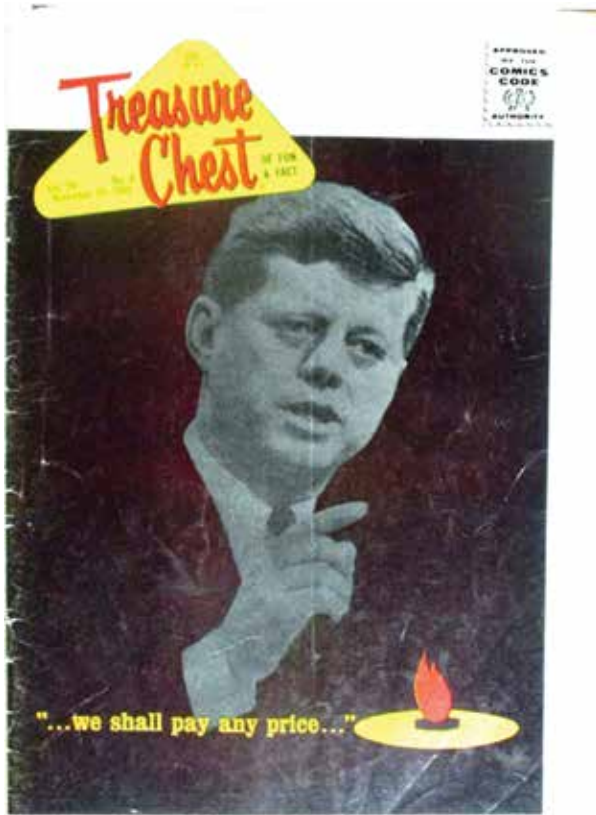
Ted Kennedy also appeared in at least ten different issues of *MAD Magazine*. The only Robert Kennedy comic that could be found was the January 1992 issue of *Conspiracy Comics*, related to RFK's assassination.

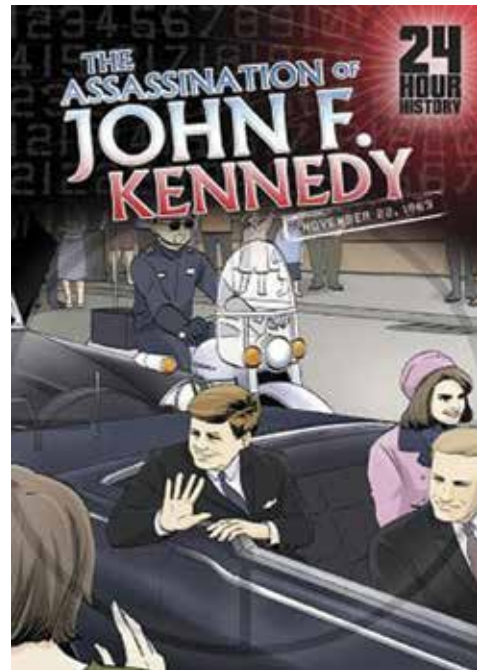
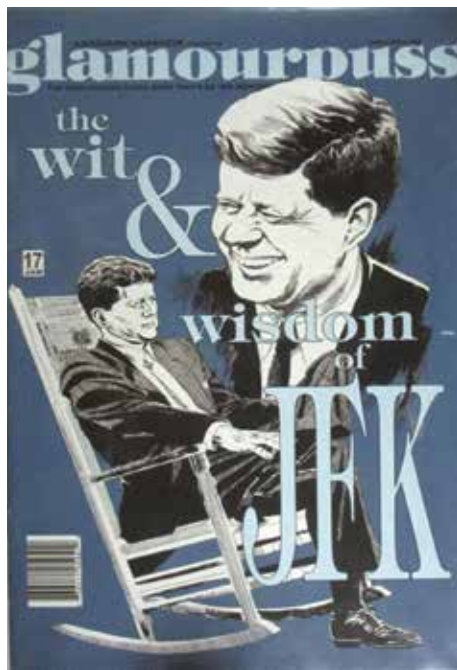
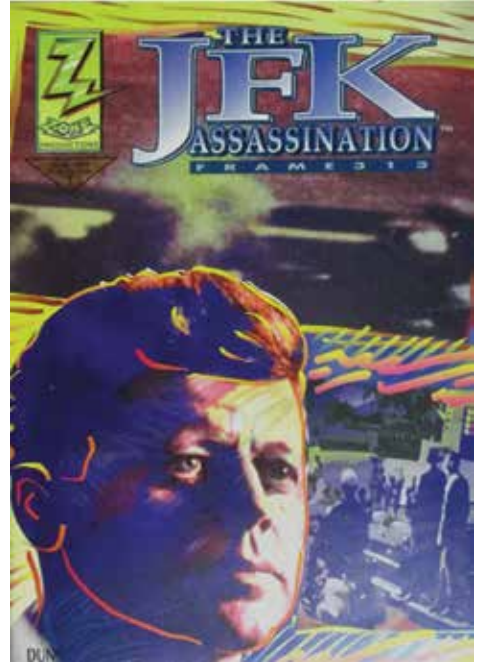
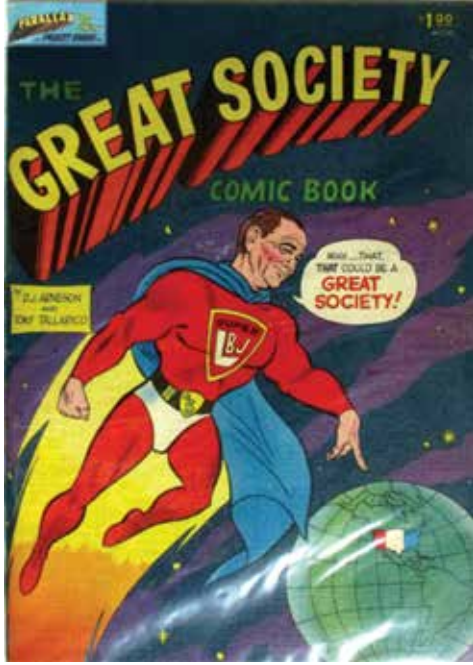
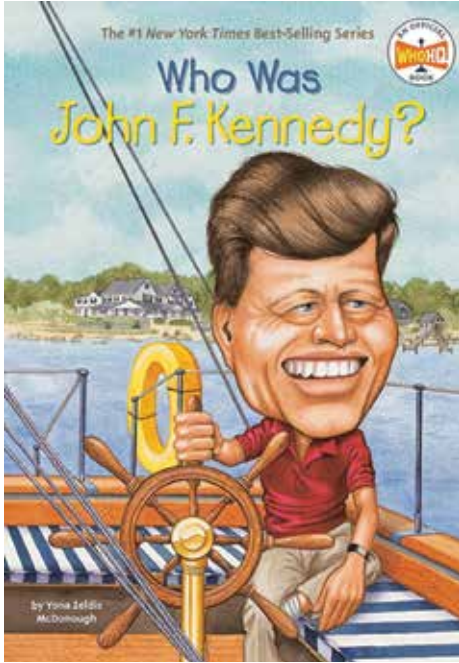
As you can imagine, there are many post-assassination and memorial comics for JFK. There are also comics from what is called "The Dark Side" in the comic book industry. Most of these published conspiracy theories in comic book style while still others included macabre stories and artist-created ghoulish images. Their only connection to Kennedy was the use of his name and pictures with the sole purpose of selling their products.

One negative aspect of comic book collecting is that publishers often print several editions of the same comic with different covers, creating small numbers of copies of one or more of them, which creates highly desired and artificially inflated values for collectors. They are manipulating the marketplace, thereby controlling the market value of their products. And just as Hollywood takes license to interpret history, the comic book industry takes liberties with the information contained in their history-related comic books.

As mentioned earlier, collecting comic books is different from collecting politicals. Most true collectors collect more than one thing. Whether it's broken down to various candidates, different types of politicals, or several different collections, research each item. If you learn a single fact about them, they are pieces of history. Otherwise, they're just a bunch of stuff.







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5. Tribute to Negro Women Fighters for Freedom
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Daisy Bates
Diane Nash Bevel
Mrs. Medgar Evers
Mrs. Herbert Lee
Rosa Parks
Gloria Richardson
6. Remarks *John Lewis, National Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.*
7. Remarks *Walter Reuther, President, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, AFL-CIO; Chairman, Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO.*
8. Remarks *James Farmer, National Director, Congress of Racial Equality.*
9. Selection *Eva Jessye Choir*
10. Prayer *Rabbi Uri Miller, President Synagogue Council of America.*
11. Remarks *Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League.*
12. Remarks *Mathew Ahmann, Executive Director, National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.*
13. Remarks *Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.*
14. Selection *Miss Mahalia Jackson*
15. Remarks *Rabbi Joachim Prinz, President American Jewish Congress.*
16. Remarks *The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.*
17. The Pledge *A Philip Randolph*
18. Benediction *Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Morehouse College.*

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My Three Favorite Finds

By Becky Peeling, Keynoter Associate Editor

Aside from the historic and intrinsic value of the items, Ron Puechner's collection includes several favorite "keepsake" pieces that have a connection to a family member or a long-time friend he considers as kin.

One such item, a Debs-Stedman jugate, has been in his collection since he started acquiring political items in 1972. This item was found at a Wisconsin flea market not long after Puechner and his two brothers began collecting. He recalled that his parents spotted multiples of the Debs jugate. The man who owned the pins was willing to sell one – at \$10 – since he was unsure of the value. After some cajoling, the owner agreed to sell a second. With three sons, Puechner's parents continued to negotiate with the seller until he relented and agreed to sell a third pin, though at a higher price of \$25.

This pin is among his favorites because it reminds him of those flea market excursions with this family. In those days, flea markets were great places to hunt for bargains of all types, Puechner recalls. The Puechner family – including aunts and uncles – would make a day of browsing, often bringing a picnic lunch. The Debs jugate was a great find for a new collector.

A family connection also figures into the acquisition of Puechner's Theodore Roosevelt "He's Good Enough for Me" pin. He was in college at Arizona State University when he received a check for \$125, an inheritance from his grandmother's estate. The next day, Puechner noticed the TR pin's description listed among items in a numismatist sales list. The cost of the pin was \$125.

"We had talked in the family about buying a memento with the money," Puechner recalls. "I am so proud to have it in my collection."

The daguerreotype of Millard Fillmore, the last Whig candidate for president, was bought by Puechner this past summer from well-known political and historical items dealer Rex Stark at the APIC Reno, NV, show. Stark passed away in December.



Shown reduced.

"I had a good show and splurged. I didn't realize that it would be the last time I would see Rex," Puechner says. "That's what the hobby is all about. We make friends who are almost family."

Family, friendship and adventure sum up collecting for Puechner, whose parents encouraged him and his brothers through family activities including outings to flea markets and garage sales. To this day, collecting has a close connection to family.

Friends who became family include past APIC President Joe Brown who encouraged the youthful Puechner brothers in collecting political items. Brown's collection was on display in Milwaukee during the 1972 Republican National Convention where the Puechners saw it. Later, Brown invited the Puechner family to his home to see his larger collection.

"Seeing huge wooden frames of Lincoln items was fascinating," Puechner recalls. "You never see those items in museums."

He also loves collecting because of the adventure of finding items and "buying them for less than they are worth."

Ron Puechner and his brothers started out as general collectors, and he still has an interest in most everything as "it's fun to show people different areas of collecting."

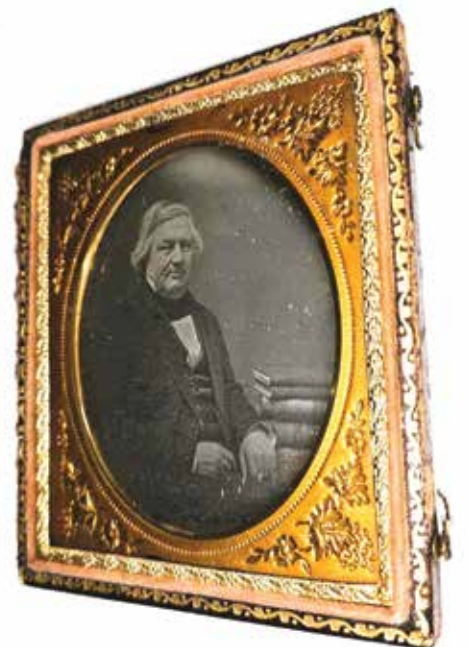
He and his wife, Martha, enjoy having people in their home to see his vast collection, which has been a backdrop for Phoenix, AZ, television stations' election coverage through the years.

"I am fascinated at what people notice," when they look at his collection as it represents history, such as the introduction of lighting, and change, represented by his display of straight-edge razors, for example.

An engineer who writes his own code to search for auctions throughout the country, Puechner tells about the time he woke his wife at 1 a.m. excited because he found a beautiful table with Thomas Jefferson door pulls in an Illinois auction. The piece now resides in the entryway of his Gilbert, AZ, home, which is another good find story in itself.

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Rex Stark, 1947-2023

By Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

If you asked a lot of collectors about their first reaction to meeting Rex Stark (APIC 1754), the words “fear” and “intimidation” might come to mind.

One of his best friends of 5+ decades, long-time political items dealer Tom French, APIC 1834, agreed. But, he added, there was another side too.

“I wish more people could have seen his soft side,” Tom said. “He didn’t expose that very often.”

Rex’s wife of nearly 30 years offered an explanation for his seemingly gruff exterior.

“He was actually quite shy,” Patti Stark said. “He intimidated people,” she added, but “he was very much of a gentleman and a scholar.”

Calling Rex a “Teddy bear,” Patti added that others told her that “you brought out the softer side of Rex.”

Born Rexford Addison Stark in 1947, Rex held degrees from MIT and Stanford. His PhD was in organometallic chemistry. While working on that doctorate at Stanford, Rex worked as a police officer during the tumultuous late 1960s. His plan, Patti said, was to run an FBI crime investigation facility, but it was delayed by a one-year hiring freeze.

“They offered him the position,” Patti said, “but he had already fallen in love with rescuing history so (he) pursued looking for the rare historical pieces and became a full-time antique dealer.”

Rex specialized in early American china, especially that of abolitionist John Brown. But his fixed price catalogs for decades were filled with the rare, unusual and sometimes bizarre. So many looked forward to those catalogs when they came in the mail, hoping the item they saw and wanted was not gone already when they immediately called Rex.

Tom French met Rex just before the 1972 election. Rex was at Stanford and Tom was at UC Santa Cruz. Rex came to the Santa Cruz collectibles show that Tom was running. Tom was working with political button dealer Dick Bristow and Rex was working with another dealer, Ben Corning.

“Despite all our differences (politically), we became close friends,” Tom said, describing how Rex “lived for and loved this hobby.”

Tom tells a story about a trip they took many years ago.

“Rex and I were back East,” Tom said. “We might have been going to Hagerstown (Maryland political collectibles show). Rex is driving. He had a map across his steering wheel and was talking on his cell phone.” When he hung up, Tom recalled, all he said was “God, I love this business.”

Tom describes Rex as “encyclopedic.”

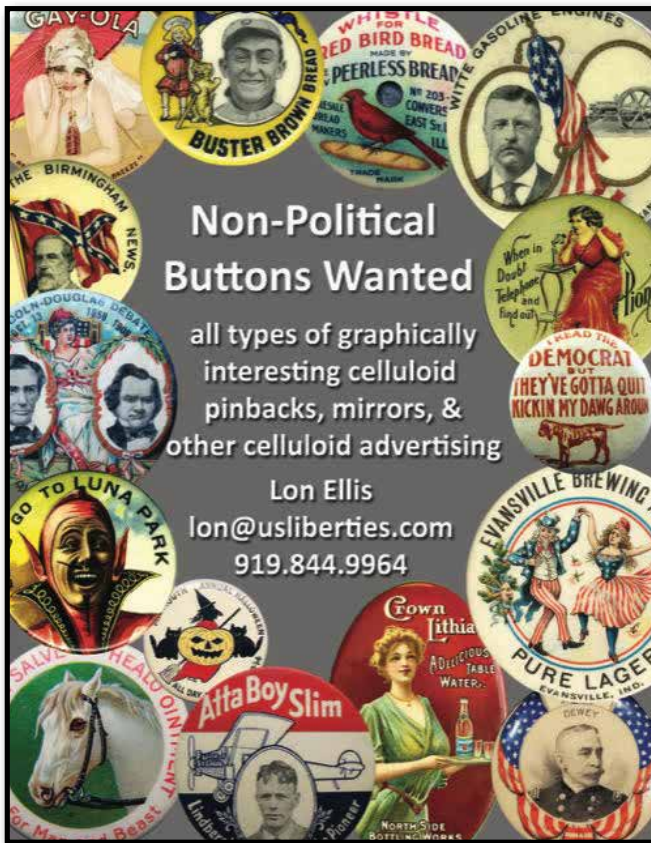


“His recall was what made him so remarkable,” Tom said. And he was happy to share that information. “When he said call my cell phone 24 hours a day, he meant it.”

Patti met Rex in the 1980s while she was working with her auctioneer husband in New Hampshire. Rex would attend their auction. When her husband passed away, Patti and Rex became more than friends. She tells a wonderful story that few know about Rex.

One day Rex had gone down to get the mail and Patti answered the phone. It was a collector who wanted to talk to Rex. He told her to just leave a message for Rex saying that his hospitalized wife was doing well. He then told Patti that Rex had paid for his wife’s surgery. He had never told Patti about it.

“I would never have known if Rex had answered the phone,” she said.



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Ike Goes to the Fair

By Michael Dunham, APIC 7423

The black and white photo included with this article shows President Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Fred Scoralick, 18, from Dutchess County, N.Y., at the 1953 Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass, also known as The Big E.

Scoralick's grand champion steer was that year's winner of the 4-H beef program.

As Donna Woolam, director of Agriculture and Education for The Big E says, Eisenhower, then nine months into his first term in the White House, didn't just happen by The Big E that year. The president had much more than a casual interest in the 4-H beef program and the winning black angus steer.

The steer was raised on the Eisenhower farm just outside Gettysburg, Pa. The farm is not far from the Civil War battlefield, a national historic site. It was sold to Scoralick's family with the intention of entering it in the 4-H competition.

"Eisenhower was the breeder of that steer, and he was here to see the animal being shown," recalls Woolam. "That's why he came."

In the photo, President Eisenhower is holding one of Scoralick's prizes from that year's competition – the winner's banner, as members of the press look on.

The pinback shown here is also from this event with Ike. He is the only sitting president to ever visit the exposition.



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APIC MEMBER PROFILE:**Justin McCulloch, APIC 17522****By Adam Gottlieb, APIC 4864**

With many APIC members ranging between 40-70 years old, it's intriguing to interview a member who comes from Generation Z, the group born between 1997-2012.

Enter Justin McCulloch, a bi-racial son of a Jamaican father and a Polish mother who calls Florida home, but now lives in Philadelphia. This 24-year-old began collecting political memorabilia in 2014 at age 14. In 2019, McCulloch (APIC 17522) served as the APIC's Marc Jacobs Intern at the Smithsonian Institution and learned about historic preservation and curating items.

He graduated from George Washington University in 2022 and is attending Penn Carey Law School in Pennsylvania and will graduate in 2026.

**You are the first “digitally native” generation. How do you reconcile being in a generation that values experiences over things?**

I don't view (political) items solely as things. While they have great intrinsic value to me, I think about the experiences associated with them. I think about what the item might have experienced before it came into my possession. Who owned it? Why did they acquire it? If only buttons could talk! I think about my experience of buying the button. I remember where/how I got it, why I chose to buy it, and the memories it conjures. When I see items I got with, and because of, my maternal grandfather (now deceased), I think about our shared memories. Finally, I think of every item as a representation of a historical story. The button says “I like Ike.” But, why did they like Ike?

How did you start collecting?

I credit my collecting to two individuals. The first was my maternal grandfather -- my “dziadu” in Polish. (McCulloch says his first language was Polish). Dziadu inspired my love of history and, as I got older, he showed me his own collection. As a proud Polish American who was born in 1943 and participated in the Solidarity trade union movement, my dziadu's collection was composed of WWII memorabilia and Solidarity pinbacks. While I had an interest in WW II, I was drawn to political history.



The second was my ninth-grade social science teacher, Mr. Salomonsson, affectionally known as Sal. He frequented the Brimfield (MA) flea market and collected a variety of everything: old oil cans, remnants of Worcester's past, and Life magazines. Sal incorporated objects into his lessons and made classroom learning exciting. He fostered my love of collecting. I was intrigued by the Life covers, especially the political ones. I started collecting Life magazines and shifted to other political items. It grew my friendship with Sal and my passion for collectibles.

Why do you collect political items?

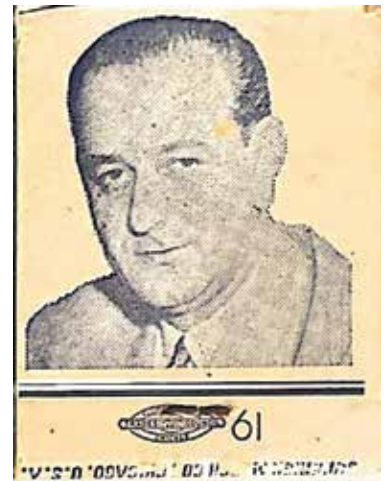
I started collecting political memorabilia because I view politics and the political system as a reflection of the will of the people. Therefore, collecting political items reflects the people's voice. One could view political items as the thoughts and ideas of candidates – presidents, senators, governors, etc. However, I think that's too one-dimensional. Political items also include

items used to promote/advance social causes, mass movements, and certain demographics. It gives a glimpse of what people believed at that moment and the political change they sought. I often ask 'why did a campaign choose this slogan or that'? To me, politics is the art and science of mass participation. I find it extremely rewarding to hold a tangible piece of that participation.



How do you explain collecting political buttons to your peers?

Surprisingly, I don't usually have to. Given my love for all things history and the fact my peers are almost all history nerds, it usually is met with "that checks out." This is often followed by a tour of my collection and discussion of the history behind the item. I explain it as the extension of my passion for history. In the same way a football fan might buy a team jersey of their favorite player, the history enthusiast might collect the button of their favorite president.



Did someone tell you about the APIC?

I found the APIC on my own. I was searching YouTube for videos about political memorabilia and collecting. I found several and then searched APIC on Google and found the APIC website. The rest is history (no pun intended.) A few months later, I was attending Tom Peeling's (APIC 9765) South Florida political show.

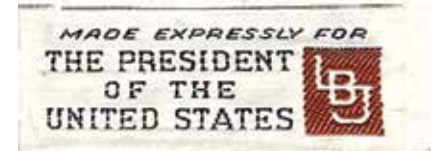
What was the first item you bought?

The first item I bought was an inexpensive lesson in caveat emptor and demonstrated the beauty of the APIC. I purchased a Woodrow Wilson button at a local antique store for \$10. I felt pride in finding a button so old, yet so pristine; it was the centerpiece of my burgeoning collection. Months later, I noticed "Kleenex" on the curl. I realized I had been the victim of what I would come to know as "brummagem." I learned more on the APIC website and wish I had met APIC earlier. However, my first "real" button was a "Nixon Now" litho.

What item are you most proud?

The fabric LBJ tag to be sewn into a pair of pants. LBJ is my favorite president and it is nice to have something personal connected to him, but also references the “infamous” 1964 phone call LBJ made to Joe Haggard of the Haggard Clothing Co. (More details can be found here:

<https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/educational-resources/lbj-orders-some-new-haggard-pants>



What would you like older dealers and collectors to know?

Gen Z has different perspectives, but we are eager to hear from and learn from others. In recent years, so much controversy has swirled around material history (“Should this statue be taken down?”) In the current political moment and given the thoughts of my generation, I think it is hard to separate historical figures and the political implications. So, for younger collectors, it can be hard to collect and appreciate items that do not align with our values. Not just politically, but morally.

For example, I have some Ku Klux Klan items. Preserving a tangible record of their horrible history is important, but I think it’s harder for my generation to separate collection from glorification and preservation. To my generation, a 1930s KKK membership card belongs in the trash can. Our knowledge of the KKK and not repeating its actions are derived from books. Many older collectors feel the items themselves are important. I think both perspectives are valid. I think it is important for older collectors to keep an open mind and hear my generation’s perspective. Younger generations should do the same. All we ask for is patience and understanding.



What does the APIC need to do to adapt to young collectors?

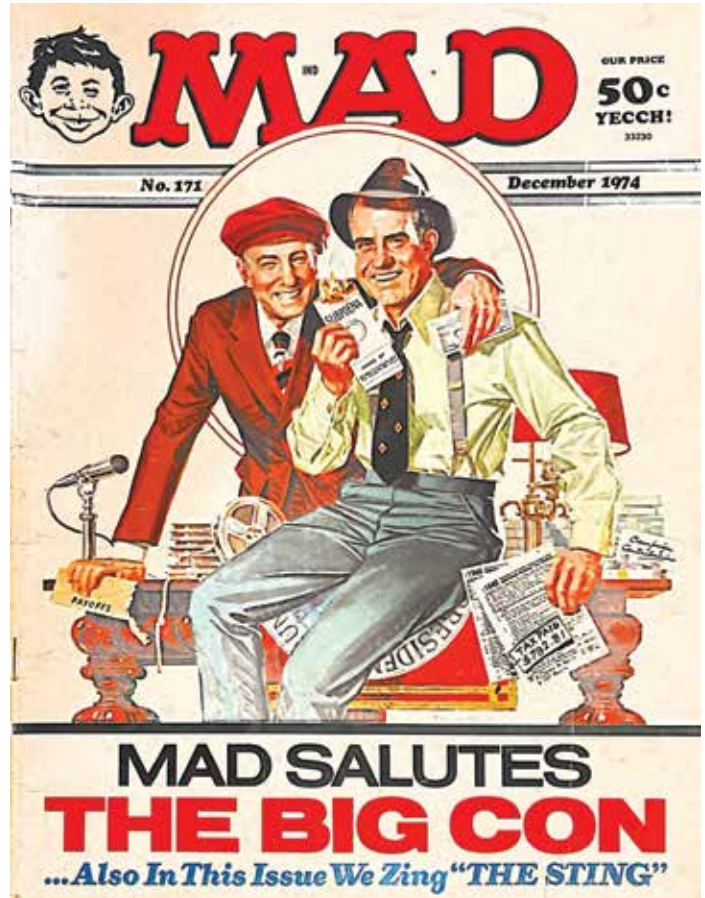
Take greater advantage of the Internet. Many members of my generation are on several social media platforms: Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. But not Facebook. For most Gen Z collectors, we simply cannot afford to travel to an APIC show. Our medium of connecting is the Internet (especially in the era of Zoom). I think beefing up APIC’s social media presence, hosting more online events, and exploring Internet alternatives is a great start. It is hard to capture the magic of a button show in the land of Zoom. But a virtual roundtable about particular candidates or show-and-tell of unique 3-D items would be great.



I challenge APIC to go into classrooms (6th-10th grades) with teacher cooperation and talk about political items. Students will like the break from the lecture and will be more interested in history when they can touch and feel.

On a similar note, I think basic education could be helpful. The APIC uses terms that aren't evident to a newbie. It took me a year to figure out what a Riker mount was. Consider virtual seminars on the language of collecting, avoiding reproductions, and preserving/displaying your collection. For young people who are considering joining a hobby with people twice their age, it can be intimidating when there is so much prerequisite jargon and knowledge that older collectors assume as second nature. For many of us, it is easier to give up than try to keep up.

Finally, continue being the warm and welcoming individuals that you are. I don't think I would have made it this far if I hadn't received such a warm welcome at the South Florida political show.



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TRUTH BE TOLD

You Could Have Had a V8

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

From time to time, this wonderful, scripted Roosevelt radiator attachment comes up for sale as a campaign piece, but it is not. It is the marking for the Roosevelt model car built in 1929 and 1930. The Roosevelt was built by Marmon, which was a luxury car maker.

The Roosevelt was to be a less expensive car, or a junior line, of the Marmon brand, a practice several luxury car makers experimented with. The car came with a flathead, eight-cylinder engine and was priced at less than \$1,000. The car was named after former President Theodore Roosevelt and first appeared ten years after his death.

Besides the flowing "Roosevelt" radiator plate, it also came with a "Roosevelt 8" attachment on both the front and rear bumpers, along with a cameo of TR on top of the radiator shell. Sales did not meet expectations and the line was dropped after 1930, although 28,000 were made in two years. The entire Marmon line only made 109,000 cars in 30 years.



Marmon discontinued auto manufacturing in 1933 as demand for luxury vehicles fell victim to the Great Depression. The company successfully evolved into manufacturing other items but never returned to luxury vehicles.

Speaking of Theodore Roosevelt, how many of us would pass up buying this TR eyeglass pin if the Fairbanks image was not present? I know I did.

A Southern California dealer had one “missing” Fairbanks and I just passed it up hoping to find a “complete” example. It turns out that originally they were produced without the VP lens simply because no VP had been chosen yet. On June 12, 1904, *The Baltimore Sun* ran a small piece with the headline “Eyeglasses A Campaign Pin, Thus Far, However, There’s A Blank Stare In One Lens.”

So, if you find one, don’t pass it up.



EYEGGLASSES A CAMPAIGN PIN

Thus Far, However, There’s A Blank Stare In One Lens.

Washington, June 11.—President Roosevelt today received two gifts which he prizes highly. They were presented to him by Daniel A. Brown, of Chicago, president of the Original Roosevelt Club of Illinois, which was organized on September 5, 1901. It is said to have been the first club organized for the campaign of 1904 in the United States.

The one present was the gavel, bound with silver and suitably engraved, presented to Mr. Brown on the organization of the club. The other was a campaign pin of solid gold, the design being intended to represent a pair of nose glasses such as the President wears, with an embossed likeness of Mr. Roosevelt in one lens and room for a similar likeness of the nominee for Vice-President in the other.

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Heroes Help Get McKinley on Track

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993



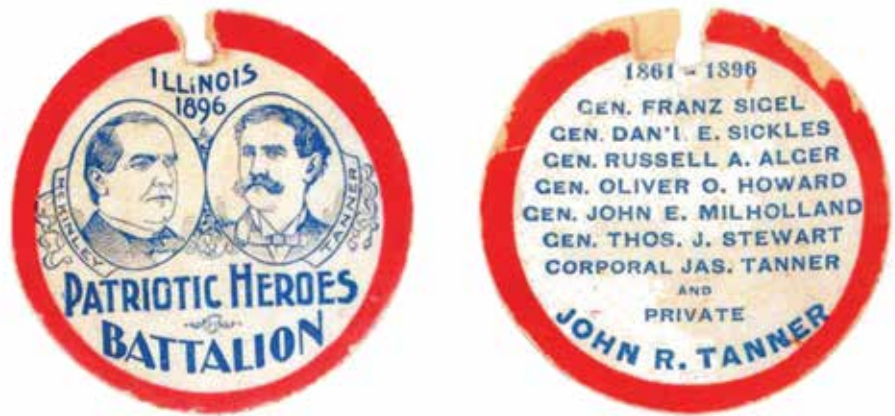
In October 1896, the Republican Party of Illinois put together a McKinley and Tanner special train tour. For a couple of weeks prior, several Civil War generals were traveling the central western states by train campaigning for McKinley. Their efforts were met with success, so a grand formal train tour was put together for Illinois. It was dubbed the "Patriotic Heroes' Battalion" as the main feature of the train tour was the coming together of seven old Civil War heroes. Among them were six generals: Russell Alger of Michigan who financed the entire tour, Thomas J. Stewart of Pennsylvania, plus Franz Sigel, Daniel E. Sickles, Oliver O. Howard, and John E. Milholland all of New York, along with Corp. J. M. Tanner, ex-Commissioner of Pensions. There were also one hundred stump speakers to share in the speaking duties at each stop.

The purpose of the tour was to hit many of the small rural towns of Illinois, and it took place during four days. Two days were spent in the southern section of the state, a day in the central part, and the last day in the northern section culminating in a large rally and parade in Chicago.

The train was heavily decorated in red, white, and blue with bunting, flags and portraits of McKinley and John Tanner, who was running for governor. Each side of the six cars had a different banner. They were "We Are Opposed to Anarchy and Repudiation," "Open the Mills and Factories," "Courts Are the Bulwarks of Liberty," "None Suffer So Much from Cheap Money as the Farmer and Laborer," "1896 as Vitaly Important as 1861," "For the Honor of Our Country," "Honest Money Will Revive Trade," "Not an Increase of Coin, but an Increase of Confidence," "The State of Lincoln Will Never Surrender to a Champion of Anarchy," and on both sides of the last car "Patriotic Heroes' Battalion."

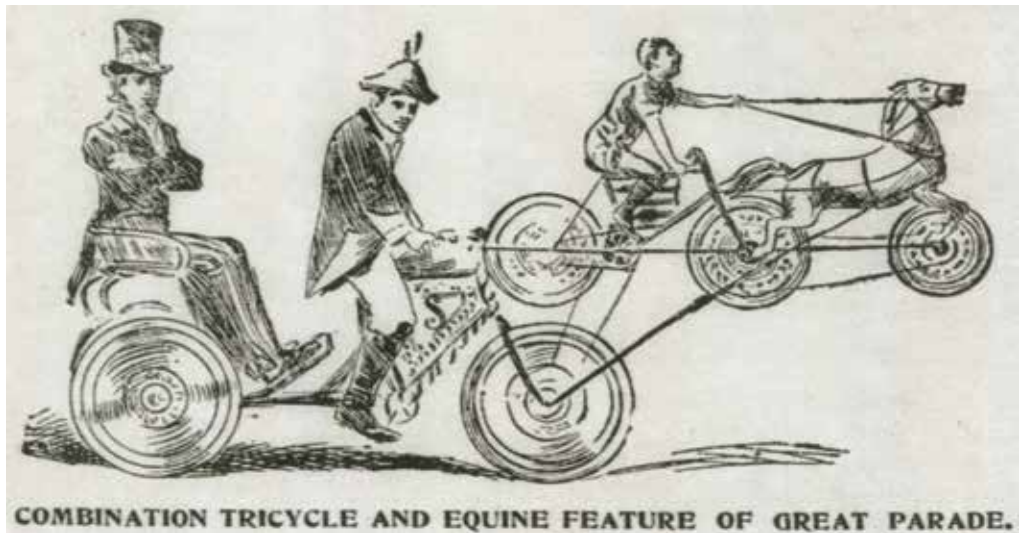
The car at the rear of the train was a flat car set up to be a speaker's platform. A special feature of the car was a twelve-pound Napoleon cannon, which had been used during the Civil War. The cannon was fired every 3 miles along the route and multiple times during each stop along the way. There would be no mistaking the approaching train and dignitaries.

The Patriotic Heroes' Battalion made stops at 40 different towns and pulled through more than 100 small villages on its way to Chicago. Advance men provided local politicians and dignitaries with times and information so that special guests could be invited. As the train came to a stop in towns, two large flagpoles were raised, and old glory hoisted. The cannon fired off a couple of bombs that were shot into the sky and after bursting, hundreds of flags with a Tanner button attached were released. Many supporters and the just plain curious came from miles around to see the war heroes. Stops ranged from fifteen minutes to an hour in length.



A ribbon badge from the 45-minute stop in Fairfield, Ill, the second day of the tour, is known.

The *Inter-Ocean* newspaper of Chicago wrote of the visit "At Fairfield, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, a concourse of at least 8,000 wildly enthusiastic people gave John R. Tanner a most magnificent personal ovation. Delegations from Flora, Shawneetown, Clay City, and half a dozen other neighboring towns were present with their glee clubs and uniformed



organizations mounted and on foot. There were hundreds of girls clad in white and yellow, each one waving a small flag and cheering as hard as the men. A great triumphal arch bore the inscription: 'Wayne County Welcomes the Patriotic Heroes' Battalion, Generals Sickles, Alger, Howard, Sigel, Stewart, Corporal Tanner, and our own John R. Tanner,' and pictures of McKinley and Tanner were everywhere."

"When silence could be secured, Captain Robert Jessup of Fairfield presented Captain Tanner, whose every sentence was cheered, and who concluded by introducing General Sickles, who devoted himself principally to state issues and especially to a dissection of Governor Altgeld's claim to Democracy, which he declared to be spurious. In closing he said: 'You have for your candidate for Governor a brave man and soldier who has not forgotten what he fought for, a man who today denounces the sectionalism of Bryan and Altgeld as he fought sectionalism thirty years ago. His election will not only guarantee the security of law and order in Illinois but will give you a Governor whose character will be in keeping with the greatness of your state.'"

“General Howard then proposed three cheers for the old flag and McKinley, which were heartily given. He then mentioned John R. Tanner’s name and the crowd went fairly wild, the cheers for him fairly dwarfing those that had been given previously, and hundreds clamoring for an opportunity to shake his hand. When the desire had been gratified Corporal James Tanner made a brief speech, prefacing it with the remark, ‘I always knew that the Tanners were of ancient lineage, but all my researches in genealogy never traced them back into Egypt until I came to Illinois.’” (James Tanner used this same line often on the tour to address his similar name to John Tanner, who was no relation of his.)

“The meeting concluded with speeches by Generals Alger and Stewart, and the train sped forward on its way to Louisville, Clay County, the birthplace and home of John R. Tanner.”

BOOM! came from the cannon and it was on to the next stop, ultimately finishing in Chicago where there was a very successful rally and parade. The Patriotic Heroes’ Battalion had completed its tour of Illinois. But it was not finished as it would continue for another successful four-day tour of Indiana.

Be on the lookout for other ribbon/badges from other cities on the tour. I hope to someday find one from Belvidere, Ill., as I can just imagine the excitement of the day to my great grandparents.

In researching this story, I discovered a unique feature presented in the Chicago parade. A. G. Spalding & Bros. included an “immense tricycle” “pedaled by C. Harry Tobey, costumed as McKinley (note the Napoleon hat) and occupying a seat in the rumble” is “A. McK. Weed, representing Uncle Sam. Ahead of this tri-wheeled machine, and really a part of it, will be a horse, rampant, pawing a bicycle wheel and driven by a Jehu. The motion of the big tricycle will turn the wheels of the uplifted bicycle so that the horse will really seem to be wheeling in the air,” from *The Chicago Daily Tribune*.

New Locals Finds

By David Quintin, APIC 2776

Three never-before seen cellos have surfaced on eBay.

The 1904 Missouri 1 ¼ inch Joseph W. Folk is a different version than the 1 inch cello that has his name abbreviated Jos. W. Folk.

The 1920 Connecticut 7/8 inch Everett J. Lake for governor sepia to my knowledge has never appeared before.

A true rarity and never before seen is the 1936 Texas 7/8 inch Republican C.O. Harris for governor pin. Texas was dominated by the Democratic Party until 1978 and there are almost no campaign items supporting Republicans during the 1930s. Harris received only 58,842 votes out of 842,170 cast.



Equality Pins: Pro or Anti?

By Carter Todd, APIC 3208

When Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901, he inherited a nation that was severely split along geographic, racial and economic lines. The pain of the Civil War was still somewhat fresh, and Southerners were firmly committed to the Democratic Party and too suspicious of Republicans to welcome a new Republican president. But TR seemed different.

Roosevelt's mother was from a prominent Georgia family and two of his uncles supported the Confederate cause during the Civil War. Roosevelt's large personality also attracted Southerners – TR was an outdoorsman and he liked guns. Teddy's daring and impetuous nature also appealed to Southerners and during the early fall of 1901 the region's newspapers devoted significant space to his exploits in the Spanish American War from three years earlier. The door was open for a much-needed reconciliation.

Almost immediately upon his ascension to the White House, Roosevelt let it be known that he was willing to appoint Democrats to offices in the South when he could not find qualified Republicans, and that he hoped to make the Republican Party respectable in Dixie. He was quoted as saying, "I am going to be president of the United States, and not of any section. I don't care for sections or sectional lines." One newspaper even predicted that "before his administration is concluded the Mason and Dixon line will be an almost forgotten tradition."

Button No. 1, often referred to as "TR at the Gate," clearly captures the above sentiment that TR really wanted to be "president of all the people" and not just the northern section of the country. There are several interpretations for the symbols in this button, but many believe the fence represents the Mason Dixon line and Roosevelt is trying to open the gate and bring the country back together after the Civil War. To reunify the country, we clearly need to get rid of prejudice and lawlessness (think of the roaming Red Shirt bands and Klan in the South), but the "Spirit of the Republic" was for us to all live and work together as one country.

The Spanish-American War also helped pave the way for national healing. Funny how a war will do that sometimes. The Spanish-American War clearly brought an unanticipated harmony and unity to a country that had been riven by war and a punitive postwar military occupation. In the South, American flags flew again as the sons of Confederate soldiers volunteered to fight even if it meant wearing the once-hated Yankee blue. Just as important, black troops also fought in the Spanish-American War, and the cooperation among the various groups of American soldiers might have given TR a false sense of hope on solving the country's racial divide.

Button No. 2A, often referred to as the Spanish-American War Equality button, is found in both black/white and multi-color and shows TR leading a contingent of both white and black soldiers up San Juan Hill. And button No. 2B carried those same thoughts, with TR in uniform holding a paper of "equal rights."



Roosevelt was famous for his impulsiveness and tendency to act quickly – and he would often think about the repercussions of his actions after the fact. In 1901, did TR slow down to think through how he could appeal to white Southerners while at the same time helping provide the country's new black citizens with opportunities to advance? We'll probably never know the answer. In all likelihood, Roosevelt might not have been certain himself on where he wanted to take the country on the question of race reform. In any event, Teddy was ready to act, and he couldn't have picked a better qualified person to counsel him on southern policy than the great Negro educator, Booker T. Washington.

On the very day that he became president, Roosevelt wrote a note to Washington, "When are you coming north? I must see you as soon as possible." The two met at the White House in September of 1901 to discuss future appointments in the South. Then in October, Washington received word that the president desired a second conference with him as soon as possible. That meeting culminated with a dinner at the White House on Oct. 16, 1901, between Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington. All good button collectors know the story and details of that dinner by heart. TR's progress with the South quickly evaporated, and the Southern press spoke almost as one voice in condemning the Roosevelt-Washington dinner.

At least five different political buttons commemorate that historic dinner, and all have different back stories and might have been used in different ways (pro-TR or anti-TR) in the 1904 presidential campaign. Buttons No. 3 and No. 4, often referred to as the Thomas Equality buttons, portray a black man clearly identifiable as Washington, and these buttons have the word "Equality" below the table and Washington is seated to the right of Roosevelt. An article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* attributed the origin of the buttons to a white Chicagoan motivated by racial idealism. According to the *Enquirer*:

"Charles H. Thomas, a white Republican of Chicago, has evolved a campaign button for which his party will not stand sponsorship. It represents Pres. Roosevelt at dinner with Booker T. Washington. The zealous Mr. Thomas wished to impress upon the colored brothers the idea that the only way to the higher life was to vote the Republican ticket. His brilliant idea is depicted in the campaign button. Thousands of the buttons are being worn by colored men in Chicago, and the demand throughout the country is growing."

Equality buttons No. 5 and No. 6 (color version No. 6A) depict a black man having dinner with TR (seated this time to the left of Roosevelt) and the word

"Equality" is at the top of the button. Some historians have said that the two Thomas Equality buttons are clearly TR buttons and the other Equality buttons were Democratic buttons used as anti-TR items in the South. In Hake's Auction No. 233, button No. 6A is described as an anti-TR item: "The generic depiction of Washington, casually seated, sharing a drink w/TR from a bottle of liquor prominently placed on the table indicates this design was produced as a satirical 1904 campaign item."



In a 2020 Heritage auction of one of the Thomas Equality buttons, the catalogue description noted that “Two other designs of Equality buttons were issued which are considered derogatory in nature. In these ‘knock-off’ designs, the Washington character is not clearly recognizable, appears inappropriately casual and familiar, and the water decanter is replaced with a liquor bottle. In our button, Washington is clearly identifiable and both parties appear dignified and mutually respectful.”

With the assistance of APIC member David Holcomb, more than twenty 1903/04 newspaper articles about the Equality button were studied. This survey makes it clear that all varieties of the Equality button were cherished throughout the country by the black population, hidden by white Republicans, and flaunted by Democrats in the South.

Several Southern newspapers dared white Republican leaders to publicly wear their “Equality” buttons during the 1904 campaign. *The Daily Arkansas Gazette* said, “These buttons will be the campaign badge of negro Republicans in 1904. The Democratic national committee should order a few million of them and distribute them through the South, the border states and the states that the Democrats have any hopes of carrying. They would cause Roosevelt to lose more votes than speeches on the tariff.”

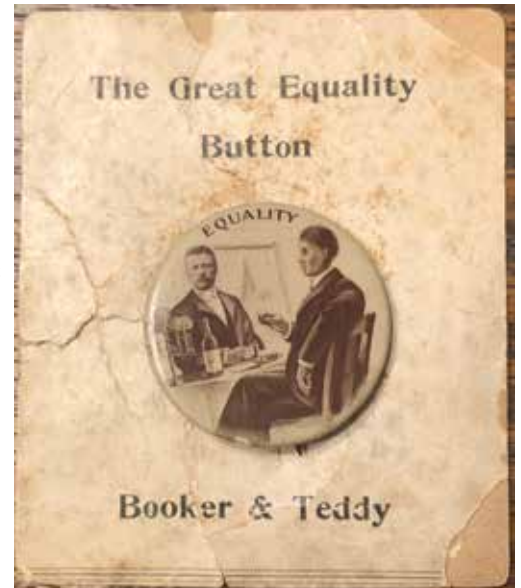
The Nevada State Journal reported that “an ‘Equality’ button, showing the president and a colored man dining at the same table is out and having an enormous sale among negroes in the East.”

Based on this, I would conclude that cataloging the various Equality buttons is not as simple as Hake and Heritage might make it sound, and that collectors can properly place any of the varieties of the Equality buttons in either their Alton Parker or TR trays.

A find by Baltimore APIC member Al Dorsey has added even more intrigue to the lore surrounding Equality buttons. Dorsey uncovered a sepia version of button No. 6 on its original trade card.

This is button No. 7, and the card simply reads: “The Great Equality Button – Booker & Teddy.” The use of the word “Great” and the familiar but affectionate reference to “Booker & Teddy” by first names further supports the theory that all varieties of these buttons were probably loved by black Americans, quietly ignored by white Republican leaders and widely advertised by Democrats.

We likely will never know the full story behind all of the different Equality buttons, but we do know that in 1904 the Democrats produced one of the most vicious political buttons ever made. Button No. 8, often referred to as the Jugate Marriage Pin, bluntly dramatized the traditional bottom line of white supremacist fears by portraying Democrat Alton B. Parker above a white wedding couple and TR above a white bride and black groom. The caption reads “It’s Up to You – Take Your Choice.”



These are all great Theodore Roosevelt-related buttons and all are very rare. What makes our hobby great is how these campaign items continue to educate and how clearly they reveal the important issues of the day, many of which continue to divide our country.

APIC National Convention Nears

By Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

In four months, the biennial APIC family reunion will happen again.

Some would say it's better than many family reunions. Well, there will be buttons.

The site of this APIC National Convention from Aug. 5-9, a Monday through Friday show, will be at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in southwestern Pennsylvania. The original plan was to have a show in Pittsburgh, but as show host Jack Dixey would tell you, it didn't take long to realize that was not going to be possible.

"I went to seven locations over three days looking at sites," Dixey said. "We had pretty much exhausted the Pittsburgh locations."

Expense, availability, ballroom space and parking all were impediments to a Pittsburgh location, Dixey said. One hotel wanted \$6,000 a day to rent the ballroom, plus \$75 for each table rental needed. And to top it off, in a ballroom that could easily handle several hundred tables, APIC was told that 120 would be the limit because of fire marshal restrictions. An APIC National needs at least 250 tables. Plus, valet parking was the only option, with show attendees having to pay each time they took their cars out.

That's when the search spread out a little, with the help of APIC member Natalie Curley of Irwin, PA.

"I was aware of Seven Springs and had driven through it 20 years ago," Dixey said.

Unlike the Pittsburgh locations, Seven Springs actually wanted the APIC. It's a ski resort and business is slower there in the summer. But the mountain views remain the same in that season. For those looking for outside activities in a rural location, there is horseback riding, hiking, golf, tennis and an indoor and outdoor pool.

"The openness and serenity" of the site is something Dixey said sold him on the location.

The resort's two connecting ballrooms total 20,000 square feet and can handle 300 show tables. The show display room will be on the stage in one ballroom, allowing APIC to save money on security since everything will be in one locked area. The bourse area is accessible from the hotel rooms without going outside, which was not true of some of the downtown locations.



The resort boasts of 14 restaurants ranging from upscale to sports bar, pizza shop, ice cream/fudge shop and a fast-pickup breakfast nook. There is also a separate area for the APIC banquet and member's auction.

And speaking of the show banquet on Friday night, APIC member Jim Lowe from western Pennsylvania has been chosen as keynote speaker. Lowe's collection of homefront memorabilia is special, perhaps the best in the APIC (see Summer 2023 Keynoter for examples).

If you know Jack Dixey and his infamous Canton Big Show in October each year, you know fun things will be planned. While the bourse will be Wednesday through Friday, Monday and Tuesday will be packed with events too. On Monday, bus trips to architect Frank Lloyd Wright's nearby Fallingwater home and the Flight 93 National Memorial are planned. One bus will leave at 9 a.m. for Fallingwater then come back to the resort and leave at 1 p.m. for the Flight 93 Memorial. Bus two will do the same, but in the reverse order, going to the Flight 93 Memorial first. Each bus can hold 56 and Dixey expects both to sell out quickly. There will also be a member reception Monday evening.

Tuesday will feature the Chalk and Awe sidewalk art event and the Anderson Auction sponsored trivia contest. There will also be plenty of seminars being lined up by APIC member Tony Lee of New Jersey. Dixey also is cooking up another special event, and those who have attended other Nationals he has been involved with know that means fun.

While the majority of those attending most likely will drive in, the closest major airport is in Pittsburgh, about 90 minutes away. A rental car would be necessary.

Rooms for the show are \$149. When calling the resort at 866-437-1300, be sure to mention the APIC show to get the special rate.



APIC 2024 National Show Committee

Show host: Jack Dixey

Displays: Tom Peeling & Drew Hecht

Seminars: Tony Lee

Member Auction: Wes Berger & Hal Ottaway

Treasurer: Michael Gruber



Continued from page 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I note that in Cary Jung's president's column in the Winter 2023 Keynoter that he explored the August 2024 APIC National resort venue in Seven Springs, PA. He flew into Pittsburgh airport and rented a car for the "90-minute drive" to Seven Springs. An hour and a half drive! The car rental alone for, say, 5 days' stay at APIC can cost more than the flight to Pittsburgh. Not to speak of any resort daily parking fee, if there is one.

The APIC 2024 National dates are scheduled directly opposite the Chicago American Numismatic Association National 2024 convention. The exact same dates! Many numismatists avidly collect political tokens and medals and this market is rapidly expanding.

Walk-ins for auction at the APIC National are highly unlikely because of the extreme isolation of Seven Springs. That, plus the ANA date conflict, the cost of car rental and 90-minute length of the trip from the airport does not forecast a good APIC National attendance. I will miss this National for the first time in almost two decades as will many others I've talked to.

-Alan V. Weinberg, APIC 9531

Editor's note: The parking is free at Seven Springs.

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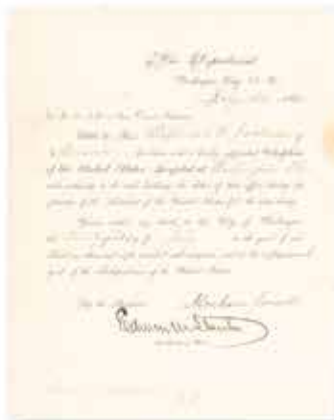
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