

Guide to MS-266:

Michael Birkner '72 Collection of Political Memorabilia



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Malachi Dixon-Powell '21, Diane Werley Smith '73 Intern
June 2021

Sydney Dyer '25, Fortenbaugh Intern
February 2023

MS-266: Michael Birkner '72 Collection of Political Memorabilia

Malachi Dixon-Powell, 2021, Diane Werley Smith '73 Intern, June 2021

Sydney Dyer, 2023, Fortenbaugh Intern, February 2023

Size

4 boxes, 2.75 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1844-2020

Bulk: 1964-2008

Provenance

The Michael Birkner '72 Collection of Political Memorabilia is an artificial collection that includes donations such as materials from the 1996 and 2004 presidential elections from Michael Birkner '72, presidential memorabilia of Barack Obama from Denise Lucadamo, materials from the 1964 and 1968 presidential elections from Ronald Couchman, and political pins from Janet Powers. Several other donations from disparate donors were added to this collection and additional one-off donations of political memorabilia can be added as needed.

Scope and Content Note

The Michael Birkner '72 Collection of Political Memorabilia is comprised of numerous campaign materials for presidential candidates, as well as other presidential and general political memorabilia. This collection consists of flyers, pamphlets, campaign stickers, posters, yard signs, pins, and even clothing related to campaigning. The bulk of the content comes from the elections in years 1964, 1968, 1996, 2004, 2008, and 2020. Some of the years are made up of the collected materials from both Democrat and Republican candidates, while some focus on a single candidate. There is also material from as far back as 1844, such as an 1844 Henry Clay ribbon and an 1864 ticket ad for Abraham Lincoln.

Furthermore, there is also a substantial amount of memorabilia unrelated to campaigning, such as memorabilia from Barack Obama's presidency which includes presidential calendars, printed thank you notes, and more. There is also a box of political pins, split into pins for presidential campaigns and for other political causes, such as a variety of pins from the women's movements of the 1970s and 2000s.

Materials in this collection serve as visual examples of campaign logos and other material culture created by campaigns. Its intention is to pull together and describe items that were previously unconnected to a manuscript collection.

Series Description

The Michael Birkner '72 Collection of Political Memorabilia is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Presidential Campaign Memorabilia – organized chronologically by election year, **Series 2:** Presidential Memorabilia – organized chronologically by president, **Series 3:** Political Memorabilia – organized by subject and material type

Subjects

Presidents -- United States
Presidents -- United States – Election
Presidents -- United States -- Election -- History
Political campaigns -- United States
Presidential candidates -- United States -- History
Campaign management -- United States
Campaign paraphernalia -- United States – History

Box List

Box 1

Series 1 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

Finding Aid and Research Materials

1844 Presidential Campaign

- Henry Clay and a Protective Tariff ribbon

1860 Presidential Campaign

- “We’re a band for Fremont” ribbon – Republican Convention (gift of Jeremiah Zimmerman, 1933)

1864 Presidential Campaign

- Lincoln and Johnson “The Union Forever!” Carroll County [MD] ticket

1932 Presidential Campaign

- Gold Prosperity Bond of the Democratic Central Committee of the District of Columbia, Roosevelt and Garner [2022-0071]

1964 Presidential Campaign General Materials

- “Presidential Election 1964” The New York Times, September 1964
- Presidential Election Maps (2)
- The Washington Post “On Election Day: Don’t Be a No-Show” (Oversize box)

1964 Presidential Campaign Democrat Campaign Materials

- Brochures, Democratic National Committee
 - For the USA: Vote Democratic Nov. 3 (3)
 - Reason vs. Rashness
 - A Better Deal for Women
 - Economy in Government
 - Better Opportunities for Older People
 - For Peace with Security

- Better Education
- For Prosperity with Stability
- News print
 - LBJ: A Political Biography, Liberty Lobby
 - Mr. President: The Office The Man, The President's Club, New York
- Stickers
 - LBJ Texas cowboy hat (2)
 - Johnson-Humphrey: For the USA (2)
 - LBJ For the USA (2)
 - LBJ/USA
 - Scientists & Engineers and Physicians for Johnson & Humphrey
 - LBJ for the USA (2)
- Other memorabilia
 - Democratic Sample Ballot, Anne Arundel County, MD
 - Poster: LBJ for the USA (Oversize box)
 - Johnson formal photograph poster with signature (Oversize box)
- Anti-Goldwater material
 - Goldwater vs. The People, AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education
 - The Issues: 1964 Jobs, AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education
 - Barry Goldwater on the Issues

1964 Democratic Party National Convention Volunteer Documents (August 24-27)

- Democratic National Convention Program
- 1964 Directory – Democratic National Convention
- Four Admission Tickets
- Young Democratic Clubs of America – campaign guide
- Memorandum for All Young Citizens for Johnson
- Schedule of Events – Young Citizens for Johnson
- Memorandum for LBJ Volunteers from Senator Birch Bayh, Chairman Young Citizen for Johnson
- Instructions for LBJ Volunteers
- Young Citizens for Johnson – Demonstration Notice
- Demonstration Diagram
- Demonstration Program – August 27, 1964
- Senior Citizens' Forum of the Democratic National Convention
- Invitation to The Young Democratic Festivities Committee of the 1965 Presidential Inaugural Committee Reception – Grand Ballroom, Mayflower Hotel, January 19, 1965
- LBJ Volunteers packet cover
- Volunteer vest with LBJ campaign buttons (Oversize box)
- Volunteer hats and cane (Oversize box)

1964 Presidential Campaign Republican Campaign Materials

- Brochures
 - A Team You Can Trust, Republican National Committee

- Barry Goldwater and Social Security, Republican National Committee
- “We must now make a choice in this land: Let your conscience guide your choice”, Citizens for Goldwater/Miller (4)
- “With your help and with God’s blessing, we go forward to greatness in this nation.” – Barry Goldwater, Citizens for Goldwater/Miller
- News Print
 - Goldwater” A Portrait in Words and Pictures, Human Events, Your Weekly Washington Report, January 25, 1964
- Other memorabilia
 - Article Reprint; “The Key to Victory: The Men and the Issues”. Citizen for Goldwater
 - Poster: Goldwater for President (Oversize box)
- Anti-Democratic material
 - Donkey Serenade, Republican National Committee (2)
 - Barry Goldwater: In your heart, YOU KNOW HE’S RIGHT, Republican State Central Committee of Anne Arundel County, MD
 - HHH and the ADA, Citizens for Goldwater/Miller
 - Hubert Horatio Humphrey: Candidate for Vice-President, M.E. Emerson, Dallas Texas
- Stickers
 - Goldwater – Miller
 - Goldwater 64

1964 Presidential Campaign Independent Campaign Materials

- Brochure: Stand Up For America (2)
- Wallace: Stand Up For America sticker

1968 Presidential Campaign

- Humphrey Muskie bumper sticker

1976 Presidential Campaign

- Carter/Mondale bumper sticker
- Carter/Mondale buttons (Pin box)
- Ford/Dole buttons (Pin box)
- McCarthy button (Pin box)

1996 Presidential Campaign

- Steve Forbes for President Campaign Car Sticker (2)
- Steve Forbes Flat Tax Campaign Pamphlet (2)
- Steve Forbes Flat Tax Printed Flyer
- Steve Forbes for President Campaign Pamphlet
- Bob Dole for President Personal Note card
- Bob Dole Mailed Campaign Card
- Bob Dole Absentee Ballot Application
- Vote Bob Dole Mailed Campaign Flyer
- Pat Buchanan for President Pamphlet
- Pat Buchanan for President Booklet

- Pat Buchanan for President Printed Flyer (4)
- Phil Gramm Campaign Booklet
- Phil Gramm Campaign Bumper Sticker
- Phil Gramm tax plan Article
- Morry Taylor Volunteer Card
- Morry Taylor Campaign Update Printed Flyer
- Anti-Steve Forbes Campaign Flyer
- Anti-Steve Forbes Concord Monitor Article
- Anti-Bob Dole Newsweek Comic Ad

2004 Presidential Campaign

- John Kerry CD-ROM Frisbee Disc
- John Kerry Campaign Pamphlet
- John Kerry Campaign Booklet
- John Kerry Campaign Bumper Sticker
- Howard Dean for America Sticker
- Howard Dean for America Campaign Card (2, large)
- Howard Dean for America Car Sticker (3)
- Howard Dean Endorsement Ballot
- Howard Dean for America Pamphlet (2)
- Howard Dean Absentee Ballot Application
- Howard Dean for America
- Wesley Clark Campaign Stickers (2)
- Wesley Clark Bumper Stickers (3)
- Wesley Clark Campaign Booklet
- Joe Lieberman Campaign Card (small)
- Joe Lieberman Campaign Card (large)
- Joe Lieberman Printed Campaign Flyers (2)
- John Edwards for President Booklet
- John Edwards for President Pamphlet
- Anti-John Edwards Printed Flyer
- Anti-Howard Dean Printed Flyer by Clark for President, Inc.
- Democratic Party Presidential and Vice Presidential Ballot
- Absentee Ballot for Portsmouth-Ward 2 Republican Presidential Primary
- George W. Bush Deception Dollar Bill
- Wesley Clark 2004 Presidential Campaign Yard Sign (Oversize box)

2008 Presidential Campaign [all Obama]

- President Barack Obama Campaign Victory Printed Thank You Note
- President Barack Obama Campaign Victory mailed Thank You Note
- President Barack Obama Celebratory Button (Pin box)
- Obama '08 Campaign Button (Pin box)

- Vote Barack Obama Campaign Button (Pin box)
- Obama Spiral Button (Pin box)
- MSNBC Deck of Inaugural Playing Cards (2)
- President Barack Obama 2009 Calendar
- President Barack Obama Victory Mini Bumper Stickers (4)
- President Barack Obama 2009 Calendar Booklet
- MSNBC Barack Obama Inaugural Coverage Flyer (4)
- Barack Obama Campaign stickers (2)
- Barack Obama Right to Vote Printed Flyer
- Barack Obama Campaign Lawn Sign (Oversize box)
- Vote Barack Obama door Flyer

2012 Presidential Campaign

- President Barack Obama Commemorative Campaign photographs

2016 Presidential Campaign

- Philadelphia Welcomes the Democratic National Convention
- Bernie Sanders 2016 Campaign Button (Pin box)
- Bernie Sanders 2016 Bumper Sticker
- Nasty Woman Button (Pin box)
- Anti-Donald Trump Mailed Flyer
- Anti-Donald Trump Feminism flyer
- Ben Carson Thank You Note with Portrait
- Ben Carson for President 2016 Campaign Card (3)
- John Kasich Mailed Campaign Flyer
- Chris Christie Mailed Campaign Flyer
- Anti-Marco Rubio Mailed Campaign Flyer
- Anti-Marco Rubio Lenticular Campaign Flyer
- Jeb Bush Campaign flyer

2020 Presidential Campaign

- Biden and Harris Campaign Button (Pin box)
- Dump Trump Sticker
- BYEDON Campaign Car Sticker
- Biden for President Campaign Printed Thank You Note (2)
- Biden for President Victory Fund Printed Thank You Note
 - Two “Our Best Times” note
 - One with a message from Barack Obama
 - One with a message about Kamala Harris
- “I Stand with Joe” Donation Slip
- Victory Fund Donation Letter
- Biden/Harris bumper sticker
- “This Home Supports Joe Biden and the Democratic Party” sign

- Biden/Harris Plan to Vote Campaign Flyers (3)

Series 2 Presidential Memorabilia

1949 Inaugural Program – Harry S. Truman and Alben W. Barkley

1964 “America Goes to the Polls” Publication

1972 Presidential Handbook, compiled and edited by Tom D. Rishworth, distributed by the Adams County National Bank

John F. Kennedy Memorabilia

- Undated photograph
- 1960 campaign matchsticks
- 1960 campaign buttons (5, Pin box)

[See Oversize Box for more items]

Series 3 Political Memorabilia

1964 Senate Campaign J. Glenn Beall

- “Senate Cloakroom” Newsletter
- Senator Beall Reports... pamphlet
- Re-elect Senator J. Glenn Beall pamphlets (2)

Good-Bye Hillary bumper sticker [ca. 2000]

[See Oversize Box for more items]

Box 2 Oversize

Series 1 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

John F. Kennedy Memorabilia

- The Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy poster
- “Courage Takes Many Forms” poster with photograph

Lyndon B. Johnson Memorabilia

- Poster with photograph and printed signature
- LBJ for the USA poster

1964 Presidential Campaign

- The Washington Post “On Election Day: Don’t Be a No-Show”
- Goldwater for President Poster
- Volunteer vest with LBJ campaign buttons
- Volunteer hats and cane

2004 Presidential Campaign - Wesley Clark 2004 Campaign yard sign

2008 Presidential Campaign - Barack Obama Campaign yard sign

Series 3 Political Memorabilia

Know Your Presidents Handkerchief, 1954

Richard Nixon signing pen [1969-74]

Signed Walter F. Mondale Picture "Phantom II" Minnesota National Air Guard, 1978
MSNBC Playing Cards featuring presidents and TV hosts (2 sets) [2009]

Box 3 Pin Box – located within Box 2, oversize

Series 1 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

1960 Presidential Campaign

- Kennedy for President buttons (large and small)
- Vote Democratic Kennedy button (small)
- Vote Kennedy for President button (small)
- Kennedy button (small)

1968 Presidential Campaign

- United Nixon Citizens button (small)
- McCarthy button (medium)

1976 Presidential Campaign

- Carter for President buttons (two, small)
- Jimmy Carter for President button (small)
- Vote Carter/Mondale '76 button (medium)
- Carter/Mondale '76 button (large)
- Ford/Dole buttons (two, medium)
- McCarthy '76 button (medium)

2000 Presidential Campaign

- Students for Gore 2000 button
- Vote Nadar & LaDuke button

2008 Presidential Campaign

- Obama '08 Campaign Button (large)
- President Barack Obama Celebratory Button (large)
- Vote Barack Obama Campaign Button (two, small)
- Obama Spiral Button (small)

2016 Presidential Campaign

- Bernie Sanders 2016 button
- Nasty Woman button

2020 Presidential Campaign

- Biden/Harris campaign button

Series 3 Political Memorabilia

Vietnam War "Stop the War" button

South Africa Apartheid "Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua, Clergy and Laity Concerned"

Indian Power Button [1960s-1970s]

1960s CORE button "Freedom Now"

1970s Women's Movement buttons

- Amnesty International “Women’s Rights, Human Rights, Demand It!”
- “Motherhood by Choice, Not by Chance”
- “A Man of Quality is not threatened by a Woman for Equality”

1970s El Salvador “Committee of Mothers I Beg You, I Implore You, I Order You in the Name of God, Cease Repression For Peace in El Salvador Monseigneur Oscar Arnulfo Romero” button

1980s Nuclear War “The Freeze, Because Nobody Wants a Nuclear War” button

1990s Iraq War “How Many Iraqi Children Did We Kill Today?” button

1996 Rock the Vote Button

2000s and later Women’s Movement

- March for Women’s Lives, Washington D.C., April 25, 2004
- NARAL, Pro-Choice America, “It’s Your Choice... Not Theirs.”

2000s Iraq War

- “Another Patriot for Peace”
- “Peace is Patriotic!”
- TASSC International “End Torture Now!”

Box 4 Scrapbook

Series 1 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

- Scrapbook made by Ron Couchman of the 1968 Presidential Election

Oversize Manuscript Drawer

Series 1 Presidential Campaign Memorabilia

The Nation President George Bush Worry Button Poster – poster made from Nov. 13, 2000, magazine cover of *The Nation* with artwork by Brian Stauffer depicting George W. Bush as Alfred E. Neuman, the fictional mascot of the magazine *Mad*

The Nation President George Bush “Block Bush” Poster – poster made from Sept. 30, 2002, magazine cover of *The Nation* with artwork by John Carr

John F Kennedy for President Campaign Poster

Bob Kennedy for President Campaign Poster

Richard Nixon and Spiro T. Agnew Poster

Related Collections

[Nixon, Richard Milhous: 1973 Inauguration Invitation.](#)

[MS-036: Radical Pamphlets](#)

[MS-157: The Donald Brett Collection of Eisenhower Memorabilia](#)

[MS-190: James Gelbert ’65 Teddy Roosevelt Artifact Collection](#)

[MS-201: Hauser Collection of Eisenhower Political Ephemera](#)

[MS-215: Eisenhower Memorabilia and Ephemera](#)

Contact Information

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