

Political Buttons Collection

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1917-1918, 1940



Title Statement

Political Buttons CollectionPolitical Buttons Collection, 1917-1918, 1940 Ms.2022.013

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2022.013

Unit Date

1917-1918, 1940

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains five American political buttons from the first half of the 20th century, primarily during World War I. The collection contains a button from the Liberty Loan of 1917, a button from the United War Work Campaign (1918), a button from the Fourth Liberty Loan (1918), a button from the Virginia Council of Defense (ca. 1917-1918), and a U. S. Senate campaign button supporting Harry Byrd (1940).

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated to Special Collections and University in April 1990.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Political Buttons Collection was completed in May 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Political Button Collection, 1917-1918, 1940, Ms2022-013, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History - Liberty Loan program

This collection contains two buttons from the Liberty Loan program during World War I. The liberty loan program was started by the United States Government to help pay for the war effort in Europe. There were several different iterations of the Liberty Loans, but the buttons in this collection are from the first and fourth Liberty Loan.

Source: National Museum of American History. "Liberty Loan of 1917 Button", https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1317532

Administrative History - United War Work Campaign

The United War Work Campaign was a united effort of several American organizations to raise 170 million dollars in one week in 1918 to provide soldiers with recreational activities and a morale boost during World War I.

Source: Smithsonian. "United War Work Campaign Pin", https://www.si.edu/object/united-war-work-campaign-pin%3Anmah_1317458

Administrative History - Virginia Council of Defense

During World War I, the U.S. government created the Council of National Defense in 1916 to mobilize industries for the war efforts. The Council coordinated and supervised the work of state and local councils. The Virginia Council of Defense was likely the commonwealth's council from this effort. The national council was revived during World War II in 1940, but was dissolved in 1941, with its responsibilities absorbed by other agencies.

Source: Bradsher, Greg. "The Council of National Defense: Now a Little Known or Appreciated World War I Federal Agency" (August 15, 2017). *The Text Message: Blog of the Textual Records Division at the National Archives*. <https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2017/08/15/the-council-of-national-defense-now-a-little-known-or-appreciated-world-war-i-federal-agency/>. Accessed June 17, 2022.

Biographical Note - Harry F. Byrd Sr.

This collection also contains a United States Senate campaign button supporting Harry F. Byrd Sr. Harry Byrd was from Virginia and was a U.S. Senator from 1933 to 1965. Byrd was a member of the Democratic Party and was in control over a state political machine known as the Byrd Organization.

Source: Encyclopedia Virginia. "Harry F. Byrd (1887-1966)". <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/entries/byrd-harry-f-1887-1966/>

Scope and Content

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This collection contains five American political buttons from the first half of the 20th century, primarily during World War I. The collection contains a button from the Liberty Loan of 1917, a button from the United War Work Campaign (1918), a button from the Fourth Liberty Loan (1918), a button from the Virginia Council of Defense (ca. 1917-1918), and a U. S. Senate campaign button supporting Harry Byrd (1940).

Keywords

Artifacts (object genre)

World War, 1914-1918

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Liberty Loan of 1917 Button

Unit Date 1917

folder 1

United War Work Campaign Button

Unit Date 1918

folder 1

Fourth Liberty Loan Button

Unit Date 1918

folder 1

Va. Council of Defense Button

Unit Date [ca. 1917-1918?]

folder 1

Harry F. Byrd U. S. Senate Campaign Button

Unit Date 1940

folder 1