

Cambridge Historical Commission Objects Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: Multiple sources—see individual items

Collection ID: OBJ01

Dates: c. 1890s-1980s

Extent: 70 items in 9 boxes and 1 oversize folder

Finding aid by: Meta Partenheimer, June 2017. Updated by Brittany Fox and Emily Gonzalez, November 2019.

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Collection Description:

Collection of objects relating to various aspects of Cambridge history. Historical context, if known, is provided.

Related Materials: Cambridge Ephemera Collection (CHC001)

Box list:

Box 1:

Item 1. Cambridge City Hall Vase, glazed ceramic, 5” in height, made in Germany, nd
Purchase, ca. 2001

[location: temporarily removed to CHC conference room]

Item 2. Roughcast sample, “from under the flush boarding,” taken from 7 Dana Street
Aggregate of sand, rubble, and possibly horsehair, ~2.50 x 2.25”, nd

Item 3. Unfired clay pot from 145 Elm Street (Ivory Sands House), 1.8” in height, nd
Gift of Ed Seldin

Item 4. Glazed clay pot likely from 145 Elm Street (Ivory Sands House), 1.8” in height,
nd

Item 5. Notebook (blank) with cover showing image of Boylston Street in Cambridge,
paper and wire, 2.5 x 3.5”, ca. 1960s
Gift of Frances Antupit, 2002

Item 6. Key Chain of the Harvard Square Business Association, metal, 1.6 x 1.3”, ca.
1985
Gift of Frances Antupit, 2002

Item 7. Longfellow Home Vase, glazed ceramic, made in Germany, 5.25” in height, nd
Underside is stamped: “Made in Germany for Wm. Scott & Co., Cambridgeport, Mass.”

Item 8. Thorndike School Class of 1935 Pin, c. 1935

Item 9. City of Cambridge semi-centennial medal, manufactured by Schwaab Stamp & Seal Company, 1896

Item 10. Cambridge Junior Fire Department Badge, nd

Item 11. Cambridge 50th Anniversary Souvenir Pin, 1896

Item 85. One (1) Pin for “The Celebrated Washington Elm, Cambridge, Mass., 1775-1912.” Possibly once attached to a ribbon.

Box 2:

Item 12. Royal Arcanum Agassiz Lodge Medal, 1949

Item 13. Four (4) Campaign Buttons for Francis Duehay, Sandra Graham, Ken Reeves, and David Sullivan, nd

Item 14. Five (5) plates once part of a veterans’ commemorative plaque, location unknown, nd

Item 15. Two (2) NECCO Sky Bar Candy Molds, nd

Item 16. Longfellow Home Cup with golden pig accent, glazed ceramic, made in Germany, 2.8” in height

Item 17. Daguerreotype in case, subject is an unknown Civil War-era soldier, c. 1860s

Item 18. Profile Silhouette of a Young Girl, framed, reverse reads: “Adeline M Ireson Born June 7, 1823 – For fifty years a Teacher in the Washington School Cambridge.”, c. 1830s

Item 19. Bicycle Button: “A.C.C. Meet Linton vs. Elkes Charles River Park Cambridge May 30 1898”, 1898

Item 20. Campaign Button: “For President Wm. E. Russell,” c. 1890s

Item 21. Rubber Boot reading “Radio Boot,” 2” in height

Item 22. Daguerreotype in frame, unidentified man, c. 1840s-1860s

Item 75. Newtowne Club souvenir miniature ceramic tea cup, about 2” in height

Item 76. Memorial Hall souvenir miniature tea pot, 2.8” in height

Item 78. Welcome Soap miniature notebook. Aluminum exterior engraved with “Welcome Soap, Always Reliable” and the logo of two hands clasped; lined paper inside with header reading “Welcome Soap, Pure – Efficient – Economical, Always Reliable.” Undated. Measures 2.5” x 4”.

Item 84. Three (3) empty boxes of Cleo Candy Cigarettes. Manufactured by C.A. Briggs Co., Cambridge, Mass. Undated. Each box measures 2.5” x 2.5”.

Box 3.

Item 23. “Ding Dong” hand bell from Alden Speare's Sons Co., Cambridge, c. 1940s

Item 28. North Avenue Savings Bank coin bank, silver and green, nd

Box 4.

Item 25. Two case books from the Cambridge Police Department, originally belonging to Frank McLaughlin of the CPD, 1944 and 1946

Item 27. Badge of the West Indian Aid Association, Inc. (WIAA), 9.5" in length, c. 1900

Item 81. Harvard Library Circulation Transaction Card, nd

Folder 1. (Oversize)

Item 26. One crimson pennant with white letters measuring 24" commemorating the Cambridge Industrial Carnival, 9-14 October 1911

Box 5.

Tray 1 (top tray)

Item 29. Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Company product: "Warrior" hose sample, 8" x 4"

Item 30. DOT® fasteners (2) and fastener tool (1) in original boxes. Boxes measure 5.75" x 1.75" x 1.75". These fasteners were the signature product for this company.

Item 31. Fabric fastener punches (2) and accompanying anvil (1). Company unknown. No original containers. Punches measure approximately 3" and 3.25". The anvil measures approximately 1.75" high with a diameter of 2.25" at the base.

Item 64. One (1) machinery plate with the text "[Worthington] Pump & Machinery Corporation Simplex Blake & Knowles Works E. Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. Size 7 ½ x 4 ½ x 10 No. 243195 Pat Mar 18 1913." Plate measures 4.25" x 2.5"

Item 65. One (1) golden-colored Civil War commemorative pin bearing an eagle and two flanking American flags with the text "Departure of First Company of Volunteers Cambridge 1861 50th Anniversary." Pin measures 1.5" x 1.625"

Tray 2 (middle tray)

Item 32. One (1) bottle of Whittemore Bros. Corp product: Gilt Edge Self Shining Shoe Polish (black) in original box. Box measures approximately 6" x 2.5" x 1.5".

Item 33. One (1) bottle of Whittemore Bros. Corp product: Dux-Bak Oil ("waterproofs and preserves"). No original box. Bottle measures approximately 4" high and 2" in diameter.

Item 34. One (1) bottle of Whittemore Bros. Corp product: Cadet Oxblood Oiliquid Shoe Polish. No original box. Bottle measures 4.25" high and 1.75" in diameter at the base.

Item 35. Two (2) products of J. L. Hammett Company: one (1) aluminum box of standard Crayons and one (1) cardboard box of Wax Crayons No. 8. Both contain eight (8) crayons of the following colors: red, black, green, brown, violet, orange, yellow, and blue. Both boxes measure approximately 3.75" x 2.75" x 0.75".

Item 36. One (1) product of Curtis Davis Co.: Welcome Borax Soap (bar) in original wrapper. Bar measures approximately 4.5" x 2.5" x 1.25".

Tray 3 (bottom tray)

Item 37. One (1) Lever Bros. Co. product: Fairy Soap (bar) in original box. Box measures approximately 3.75" x 2.5" x 1.25".

Item 38. One (1) Davenport & Bridges Car Makers product: builder's plate for a locomotive. Charles Davenport was a carriage maker who made the first conventional railcar in the United States. For a very short time, Davenport & Bridges made locomotives and were located in the same plant as Walworth on Main Street in Cambridge. While active, the company likely made fewer than one dozen locomotives. The plate is round and approximately 5.75" in diameter.

Item 39. One (1) Walworth Co. product: Stillson wrench. The Stillson, named after the machinist who invented this tool, was a huge advance in the plumbing industry as the grooved teeth allowed the wrench to turn a smooth, curved pipe. This tool was developed when Walworth was located on Main Street in Cambridge.

Item 40. One (1) Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Company product: fire hose nozzle. The nozzle measures 12.25" in height and 3" in diameter at the base.

Box 6.

Tray 1 (bottom tray)

Item 41. Two (2) green canvas school bags. The bags were used by Henry Walter Grunbaum (1937-2008) of Maryland and his son Carl of San Francisco, California. The bags measure approximately 19" long and 15.5" wide.

Item 42. One (1) Henry Thayer & Co. product: glass bottle measuring approximately 12" in height and 4.75" in diameter at the base.

Item 43. One (1) Rawson Electrical Instrument Co. product: Amp meter to measure micro amps. The apparatus is contained in a wooden box measuring approximately 7.5" x 7.75" x 4.25".

Box 7.

Tray 1 (top tray)

Item 44. One (1) ceramic plate 9.25" in diameter from the Grace United Methodist Church. Plate is the gift of Xonnabel Clark. For further materials regarding the Grace United Methodist Church, see the Xonnabel Clark Collection (CHC027)

Item 45. One (1) glazed ceramic vase, 3.75" in height. Vase is painted blue and features an image of the Cambridge Public Library.

Item 67. One (1) sealed box of Split Tab Good Luck Jar Rings for sealing jars. Box measures approximately 3.25" x 1.25" x 3.5".

Item 68. One (1) metal sign for Fitzhenry Guptill Co, East Cambridge, Mass. Sign measures 4" x 0.25" x 6".

Tray 2 (bottom tray)

Item 46. One (1) "Six-Footer" scarf with University of Michigan colors made by the Six-Footer Company. Sheldon Dietz, 1941 graduate of Harvard, started the company, which manufactured scarves and other wool items.

Item 66. Three (3) boxes of Bull Dog Friction Tape manufactured by American Biltrite Rubber Company, a Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Division. Each box contains 6 ¾ feet of tape and measures approximately 2" x 2" x 1".

Box 8.

Tray 1 (top tray)

Item 47-48. Two (2) "Jig of the Week" puzzles: "Picket's Charge at Gettysburg" (no. 21) and "Washington at Mt. Vernon" (no. 20) manufactured by University Distributing Company in Cambridge. Boxes measure 7.25" x 7.25" x 0.25".

Item 49. and Item 70. Two (2) vacuum tubes made by Raytheon Manufacturing Company, ca. 1925. Both in original boxes Tube measures 4.25" x 1.25" x 1.75".

Item 50. One (1) type BH "Long Life Rectifying Tube" made by Raytheon Manufacturing Company, ca. 1925 in original box. Box measures 2.5" x 5.75" x 2.5".

Item 51. One (1) box of DOT® fasteners manufactured by the Carr Fastener Company ca. 16 September 1919. Box measures 6" x 5.75" x 1.75".

Tray 2 (middle tray)

Item 52-53. Two (2) "Jig of the Week" puzzles: "Between Two Fires" (no. 16) and "Boyhood of Sir Walter Raleigh" (no. 22)) manufactured by University Distributing Company in Cambridge. Boxes measure 7.25" x 7.25" x 0.25".

Item 54. One (1) "Lysan" pocket calendar from Lysander Kemp & Sons for the year 1925. Booklet measures 3.125" x 2.125" x 0.5".

Item 55. One (1) Barbour Stockwell Co. pocket notebook with graph paper and a calendar for the year 1896. Notebook measures 5.625" x 3.125" x 0.375".

Item 56. One (1) 50-year anniversary notebook from Peter Gray & Sons, Inc. In addition to spaces for daily notes, the booklet includes a dated calendar for the year 1928, a short history of the company, and populations for U.S. cities. Booklet measures 5.5" x 2.75" x 0.5".

Item 57. One (1) Jim Dandy blow torch model no. 80-B made by Modern Metal Products Company in Cambridge in original box. Box measures 2.125" x 6.25" x 1.125".

Item 58. One (1) pack of Redi-Slip playing cards manufactured by Brown & Bigelow of St. Paul, Minnesota. Box features an image of the Hotel Continental in Cambridge, ca. 1930–1945.

Item 59. One (1) pack of playing cards advertising Elliott addressing machines and imprinters. Each card features a different Elliott machine. Box measures 2.5" x 3.625" x 0.75".

Tray 3 (bottom tray)

Item 60. One (1) New England Confectionary Company (NECCO) box measuring 7" x 9" x 2.75" advertising for the company's Bolster Bar. The Bolster was a chocolate bar containing honeycomb and peanuts.

Item 61. One (1) United Shoe Machinery Corporation (USMC) Stick Polish 26 wrapped in original foil. Item measures 1.5" x 3.25" x 1.5". Product was made by B.B. Chemical Company of Cambridge and distributed by USMC of Boston.

Item 62. One (1) box of Graffco Nu-Vise Signals. Box measures 1.25" x 2.75" x 0.875" and contains around 100 card signals.

Item 63. One (1) pair of Polaroid sunglasses with case and informational insert ca. 1930s-1940s. Case measures 6" x 2.25" x 0.875".

Box 9

Item 69. One (1) Space™ Sportsman's Blanket manufactured ca. 1960s by the National Research Corporation, once located at 70 Memorial Drive. Blanket is in original box and measures 84" x 56".

Item 73. One (1) "Women's Lib?: A Game of Women's Rights" game in original box and with original cards and playing pieces. 1970. Box measures 8.5" x 10.5". Created by Urban Systems Inc.

Box 10

Item 71. One (1) box of Reversible Collar Company Linene Collars. Contains four packs of 10 Linene collars each; the collars are size 16 ½. Collars and box are original and unused. Box measures 19" x 2" x 4.5".

Item 72. One (1) "Cambridge-Opoly" board game in original box. Undated. Box measures 18" x 1" x 9.25". Board game created by Just Board, Randolph, MA.

Box 11

Item 24. One (1) Truc shopping bag, plastic, c. 1970s-1980s

Item 79. One (1) Curious George Goes to Wordsworth Store and Wordsworth Books shopping bag, plastic. One side reads "Curious George Goes to Wordsworth, curiousg.com, books and gifts for children of all ages, One JFK Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge." Predecessor to Curious George and Friends store. Other side reads "The Complete Discount Bookseller Wordsworth Books, wordsworth.com, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 30 Brattle Street." Undated, but before 2005.

Item 80. One (1) box of Motor Boot Spats. Contains one pair of fur-lined “motor boot spats” to wear over shoes. Box reads: “Fits all types of shoes. Styled by Cambridge. For mother and daughter. Warm protection against wind, rain and storm.” Manufactured by Cambridge Rubber Company, Cambridge, Mass. Undated but likely mid-1940s. Box measures about 10.5” x 9.5”.

Item 82. One (1) box of Flash Waterless Hand Cleaner – “Special Display Carton.” Contains 12 empty hand-cleaner cans. Manufactured by Flash Sales Co., Inc., Cambridge, Mass. Box measures 6” x 9”.

Item 83. One (1) box of Good Luck Jar Rings, unopened. Contains one dozen jar rings. Box reads: “New split-tab Good Luck Jar Rings, Sure to seal, Easiest to open.” Manufactured by Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co., Cambridge, Mass. Box measures 3” x 1.5”.

On Display in Office

Item 74. One (1) Tite-Fit bottle cap and opener cardboard advertisement with 24 display openers. Created by Modern Metal Products Co., once located at 18 Ames Street. Item measures 10” x 16.75”.

Item 77. One (1) Ashton Valve Company pressure gauge. Manufactured by Ashton Valve Company, Cambridge, MA, circa 1923-1924. Item measures 4” x 2”.

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