Dowd, Frank J., Jr., Papers

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Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Department

Rush Rhees Library
Second Floor, Room 225
Rochester, NY 14627-0055
rarebks@library.rochester.edu
URL: http://www.rochester.edu/
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Summary Information

Repository: Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Department
Title: Frank J. Dowd Jr. Papers
ID: D.424
Date [inclusive]: 1860-1996
Physical Description: 6.5 Linear Feet
Language of the Material: English

Preferred Citation

[Item title, date], Frank J. Dowd Jr. Papers, 1860-1996, D.424, Dept. of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester.

Biographical / Historical

Frank J. Dowd Jr. (1924-1997) was from Winnetka, Illinois, where he attended New Trier High School. As a freshman at the University of Rochester during the 1942-1943 academic year, he was drafted into the United States Army. In active service from May 1943 until October 1945, he trained at Camp Wolters in Texas, and, as a soldier in the 102nd Infantry Division, he served in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and England. Wounded by shrapnel in his neck and arm, Dowd recovered at hospitals in England and Tacoma, Washington. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon (ETO Ribbon) for participation in the Rhineland Campaign, and Good Conduct Ribbon. The 13 July 1945 Chicago Herald-American reported, “While bullets whizzed around him on a German battlefield, [Private First Class] Frank J. Dowd Jr. . . . volunteered for litter service to carry the wounded to the rear. He has been awarded the Bronze Star and cited for saving the lives of many of his comrades.”

In 1945, Dowd returned to the University of Rochester. He was president of the Rochester chapter of Psi Upsilon fraternity, president of the Hellenic Council, and a founder and chairman of the National Student Association. In his senior year, he was awarded the Seth H. and Harriet S. Terry Prize for student leadership. After receiving his bachelor’s in history with honors in 1948, he attended Harvard Law School for a year.
In 1949, Dowd began working in the Office of Admissions at the University of Rochester. He later served as Director of Men’s Residence Halls, Executive Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Assistant Dean of Students, and Associate Dean of Students. In 1957, he received his master’s in political science at the University of Rochester, where he also taught courses in American and comparative government. In 1961, Dowd left Rochester to become Vice President of Lincoln University, a historically black university in Oxford, Pennsylvania. He returned to the University of Rochester in 1968 and held, in succession, the positions of Dean of the University School of Liberal and Applied Studies, Associate Provost for Student Affairs, and Vice President for Student Affairs. He retired in 1980.

In 1949, Dowd married Janis C. Tremper, whom he met through the National Student Association. The Dowds had three children, Judith, Laura, and Allan. Dowd’s family notes that he was active in civic life, taking part in the efforts of the Rochester Community Chest, Action for a Better Community, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and the American Red Cross, among other organizations.

Content Description

The Frank J. Dowd Jr. Papers reflect his service during World War II, his experiences at the University of Rochester as a student and administrator, and his interest in political buttons and other ephemera. His papers include correspondence written during his freshman year at the University of Rochester and while serving in the Army during World War II. In his letters, Dowd writes to his parents, Frank J. Dowd and Virginia R. Dowd; his sisters, Barbara, Carol, and Mavis (all three of whom also attended the University of Rochester); his aunt Winifred Dow, whom he called “Aunt Way Way,” and his grandparents Caroline and Otto Rhein. Dowd describes his experiences as a freshman—including expenses, classes, campus food, activities, and fraternities. He writes about Rochester friends, including Richard Wade, who, like Dowd, came from the Chicago area and who later became a history professor at the University of Rochester. He observes classmates leaving for military service during World War II and reflects on his own upcoming service, expressing interest in the Army Specialized Training Program (A.S.T.P.). Once in the Army, he describes his experiences while stationed at Camp Wolters in Texas, Fort Dix in New Jersey, and other locations in the United States; while serving in Europe; and while recovering from shrapnel wounds in England and Washington state. Some of Dowd’s correspondence is in the form of Victory Mail (V-Mail)—a system employed by the armed services during World War II to streamline mail delivery through the use of microfilm. While Dowd's correspondence from this time consists primarily of his own letters and postcards, it also contains some official correspondence to Dowd’s parents from the University of Rochester and the War Department.

Dowd’s papers also include World War II medals and ribbons, photographs, and other items relating to his experiences in the Army. These include writings by Dowd and other members of the 102nd Division, 405th Infantry, F Company about their experiences. In addition, the collection contains University of
Rochester materials from the postwar period, including correspondence, photographs, Dowd’s work as a master’s student, and clippings.

A further component of the Dowd Papers is an extensive collection of political buttons and other ephemera, from an Abraham Lincoln/Hannibal Hamlin tintype (1860) to buttons from national and local elections in the 1990s. In addition to ephemera connected to political campaigns, the collection includes buttons and other items relating to World War II, international affairs, the Rochester area, the University of Rochester, organizations such as the American Red Cross, agriculture, and other topics.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Statement**

Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Department

Rush Rhees Library
Second Floor, Room 225
Rochester, NY 14627-0055
rarebks@library.rochester.edu
URL: [http://www.rochester.edu/](http://www.rochester.edu/)

**Conditions Governing Access**

The Frank J. Dowd Jr. Papers are open for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Department prior to visiting. Upon arrival, researchers will also be asked to fill out a registration form and provide photo identification.

**Conditions Governing Use**

In consultation with a curator, reproductions may be made upon request. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from a curator. Researchers are responsible for determining any copyright questions.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The Frank J. Dowd Jr. Papers were donated in August 2011, with October 2014, November 2014, and September 2015 accruals, by his daughter Laura V. Dowd. A leather Purple Heart box containing military ribbons was donated by his sister Barbara Dowd Wright in November 2014.
Processing Information

Accruals to this collection were processed by Jonathon Thomalla and Esther Arnold in 2014-2015. Finding aid revised by Esther Arnold in July 2015 and September 2015.

Related Materials

Separated Materials

A drawing by James D. Havens ’22 of the Psi Upsilon chapter house was removed and placed within the Oversized University Photographs collection, in the box "Historical - Fraternities and Sororities."

Related Materials

Dowd’s master’s thesis, “A Legislative History of Amendments to the Natural Gas Act” (1957), is available as a cataloged item in Rush Rhees Library.

An interview with Dowd while he was serving as Vice President of Student Affairs appears in Logos 17 April 1975, pages 7-9. This publication is available as a cataloged item in the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation.

Additional materials relating to Dowd’s time at the University of Rochester as a student and administrator are available in the University Archives. Please contact the Archives (archives@library.rochester.edu) for more information.

Collection Inventory

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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Rochester and World War II correspondence, 1 September 1942-10 April 1944, 1940s, 1954</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Processing Information:**

Dates of letters generally refer to postmarked dates. Dates of composition have been used when they appear on correspondence; however, Dowd generally wrote the day of the week, rather than the date, on his letters. Envelopes have
been placed after the letters to which they correspond. Empty envelopes have been interfiled with other letters.

University of Rochester correspondence, 1-10 September 1942, circa September 1942

Scope and Contents

This folder contains Dowd’s description to his family of his arrival and first months at the University of Rochester. He writes about his room in Crosby Hall (with an accompanying sketch), the presence of the United States Navy on campus, expenses, campus food, attending a "college tea" in Rush Rhees Library, and the “fraternity question,” among other topics.

University of Rochester correspondence, 11-18 September 1942

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Four clippings, probably from the Campus Times, were enclosed with Dowd's 11 September 1942 letter. These were replaced with photocopies.

University of Rochester correspondence, 21 September-7 October 1942

Scope and Contents

This folder includes a 5 October 1942 letter from Dowd to his father, in which he reflects on his choice of the University of Rochester and on military service when he turns 18.

University of Rochester correspondence, 13-22 October 1942

Scope and Contents

This folder includes a letter postmarked 17 October 1942 in which Dowd refers to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s speech about the lowering of the draft age from 21 to 18.

University of Rochester correspondence, 20 November-22 December 1942

Scope and Contents

This folder includes a 21 December 1942 letter from the University of Rochester to members of the College for Men indicating that “students in the Enlisted Reserve Corps of the United States Army will not be called to active duty until two weeks after the completion of the student’s first academic term terminating after December 31, 1942. This
means that Rochester students in the E. R. C. will not be called before May 8, 1943.”

University of Rochester correspondence, 4 January-1 March 1943
Scope and Contents
This folder includes a letter postmarked 14 January 1943 in which Dowd mentions having gone through his initiation for Psi Upsilon. In a letter postmarked 18 January 1943, he states that his “first two draft registrations have come”; and in another letter, postmarked 16 February 1943, he observes, “People are leaving at a rate of four a day and things are very confused. After mid-terms it is hard to tell who will be left.”

University of Rochester and World War II correspondence, 9 March-12 May 1943
Scope and Contents
This folder includes a 14 March 1943 letter in which Dowd discusses attending a press conference that Eleanor Roosevelt gave at the University of Rochester. A 12 May 1943 card from the War Department to Dowd’s mother, Virginia Dowd, indicates that he “has been accepted for military service and sent to Camp Grant” in Illinois.”

University of Rochester and World War II correspondence, 18 May-14 June 1943
Scope and Contents
This folder includes descriptions of Dowd’s experiences at Camp Grant in Illinois and Camp Wolters in Texas.

World War II correspondence, photographs, and 102nd Infantry Division card, 15 June-19 July 1943, 1940s, 1954
Scope and Contents
This folder includes discussion of Dowd’s military training and his interest in the Army Specialized Training Program (A.S.T.P.). A letter to Dowd’s grandmother, with "Thursday" in the date line and missing a page, has been placed after a letter postmarked 6 July 1943. In the undated letter, Dowd thanks his grandmother for teaching him about the constellations as this knowledge has helped him lead his squad during an exercise at night. Similarly, in the letter postmarked 6 July, Dowd writes, "We're leaving for a night tactical problem in about an hour and as usual I'm worried stiff that I'll get my squad lost." Following the letter to Dowd’s grandmother are photographs of Dowd (1940s) and a 102nd Infantry Division card with his name (August
World War II correspondence, 26 July-2 September 1943, [summer 1943]  
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes discussion of Dowd’s training at Camp Wolters and his interest in the Army Specialized Training Program (A.S.T.P.). A letter to Dowd's grandmother, undated and missing its first page, has been placed in this folder after a letter postmarked 26 July 1943. These two letters both discuss the possibility of Dowd taking part in an Army Specialized Training Program focused on engineering and therefore appear to have been written around the same time.

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World War II correspondence, 7 September-23 October 1943  
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes a letter postmarked 7 September 1943 in which Dowd discusses training at Camp Wolters (for example, “live fire” exercises, “booby traps,” and a “patience test”). It also includes letters from Camp Maxey in Texas, where Dowd was stationed after Camp Wolters.

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World War II correspondence, 27 October-8 December 1943  
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes discussion of Dowd’s time at Ball State College in Muncie, Indiana, where he studied math and science as a candidate for the Army Specialized Training Program (A.S.T.P.).

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World War II correspondence, 11 January-10 April 1944  
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes a letter postmarked 10 April 1944 from Camp Swift, Texas, in which Dowd notes that he has moved to "F" Company in the 405th Regiment.

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World War II correspondence, 18 April-6 May 1944, [spring or summer 1944]  
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes a letter postmarked 18 April 1944 in which Dowd notes that he is working as an ammunition handler. A letter to Dowd's grandparents, with "Sunday" in the date line, has been placed in this folder. The letter is written on "Company F, 405th Infantry" stationery and appears to be from Camp Swift, Texas, suggesting that it
was written around the same time as other letters in this folder.

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>World War II correspondence, 13-31 May 1944</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>World War II correspondence, 1-30 June 1944, [summer 1944]</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This folder includes letters Dowd wrote from Fort Dix, New Jersey.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War II correspondence, 23 August-1 October 1944,</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This folder includes correspondence discussing Dowd's journey to Europe by boat and his time stationed in France. In a letter dated 1 October 1944, he describes a visit to a church that reminds him of his study of western architecture with Professor Arthur J. May at the University of Rochester.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>World War II correspondence, 17 October-20 November 1944, [fall 1944]</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>This folder includes a 17 October 1944 letter (probably from France) in which Dowd discusses searching for land mines. It also contains a photocopy of a letter from Holland and several letters from Germany. Dowd appears to have sent German coins to his family, possibly those currently located in box 9, tray 1. These coins were formerly housed in a separate envelope alongside Dowd’s World War II correspondence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>World War II correspondence, 25 November-13 December 1944</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes letters Dowd wrote from a hospital in England after being wounded.

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<th>World War II correspondence, 20 December 1944-24 January 1945</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 6</th>
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</table>

**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes letters Dowd wrote from a hospital in England at Christmas and New Year’s. In a 31 December 1944 letter, he reflects, “The year started in Indiana and continued through 3 visits home, Texas, New Jersey, New York, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and at last England. It’s been the hardest year, the most horrible, and yet the most interesting.”

<table>
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<th>World War II correspondence, 26 January-18 July 1945</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 7</th>
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**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes a letter postmarked 22 May 1945 in which Dowd writes from a hospital in Tacoma, Washington.

<table>
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<th>Correspondence relating to service medals and possible transfer; “Award of the Bronze Star Medal” and “Award of Purple Heart” (photocopies), 15 December 1944-28 June 1945</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 8</th>
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</thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German currency with American Red Cross envelope, 1910, circa 1940s</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 9</th>
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</table>

**Processing Information:**

**Processing Information**

The German bills in this folder were previously housed alongside Dowd’s World War II correspondence, inside the accompanying American Red Cross envelope.

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<tr>
<th>Newspaper clippings relating to Bronze Star medal (one original and four photocopies), 13-14 July 1945, 12 August 1945</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 10</th>
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<th>Reflections on World War II experiences, 1990s</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 11</th>
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<tr>
<th>Writings about experiences in 102nd Division, 405th Infantry, F Company, by Dowd and other veterans (1 of 2), 1991</th>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 12</th>
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<table>
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<th>World War II and University of Rochester materials, early 1940s-1991</th>
<th>Box 3</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Writings about experiences in the 102nd Division, 405th Infantry, F Company, by Dowd and other veterans (2 of 2), 1991</th>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th>Folder 1</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Camera Trip through Camp Wolters, early 1940s</th>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th>Folder 2</th>
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<th>United States Army caps (3), circa 1943-1945</th>
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<th>Folder 3</th>
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<th>Photographs of military social events, circa 1943-1945</th>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th>Folder 4</th>
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</table>
Photographs relating to military service and of Dowd family, circa 1943-1945  

**General**  
Additional photographs of Dowd in the Army are located in box 1, folder 9.

Photographs at University of Rochester, 1948, late 1940s or early 1950s  

**Scope and Contents**  
This folder includes photographs of the Eastman Quad at the University of Rochester, with students, as well as a Carhart's High Hat Finish album containing photographs of Dowd and other students.

University of Rochester correspondence and clippings, 1948-1949  

**Scope and Contents**  
This folder consists mainly of letters to Dowd from students, faculty, and administrators at the University of Rochester. Letters relate to WRUR, Psi Upsilon fraternity (including discussion of the fraternity and race), the Athletic Committee, Dowd's decision to leave Harvard Law School, and an invitation to interview at the University, among other topics. The folder also contains a newspaper clipping featuring Dowd as a winner of the Terry Prize at the University of Rochester.

Photographs of 40th class reunion, University of Rochester (group), 1988  

**Scope and Contents**  
This folders contains facsimiles of the following papers and clippings, which Dowd had collected in a binder: Dowd, “Democratic Fundamentals and the Making of Foreign Policy,” for Government 198, 12 May 1952; Dowd, “Constitutional Aspects of Discrimination against Negroes in Property and Education,” July 1951; several pages of notes inserted within the previous paper; White, E. B., “The Morning of the Day They Did It,” *New Yorker* 25 February 1950; Angell, Roger, “Flight Through the Dark,” *New Yorker* 1950; and papers by Dowd on the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and Johann Gottlieb Fichte.

News clippings relating to civil rights and the natural gas industry (facsimiles made from scans), January-February 1956  

Draft of master’s thesis (facsimile made from scan), 1956
Scope and Contents

This draft of Dowd’s thesis “A Legislative History of Amendments to the Natural Gas Act,” composed earlier than the draft in folder 10, includes annotations by Dowd and another hand, perhaps John H. Millett of the Department of Government.

Draft of master’s thesis (facsimile made from scan), 1956

Scope and Contents

This draft of Dowd’s thesis “A Legislative History of Amendments to the Natural Gas Act,” composed later than the draft in folder 10, includes annotations by Dowd and another hand, perhaps John H. Millett of the Department of Government.

Army compass in metal case, 1940s

World War II medals, ribbons, and other items, 1943-1945, undated

Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Bronze Star medal box, 1943-1945, undated

Purple Heart box containing three ribbons, 1945

Five army ribbons, three attached to one pin, 1944-1945

Honorable discharge in red 3x4-inch holder, 19 October 1945

102nd Infantry Division Association lifetime membership card, made of metal, undated

Three United States Army dog tags, two on black cord and one on ball chain, 1943-1945

Photograph of Company F, 405th Regiment, 102nd Division, taken at Camp Swift Texas, 1944

University of Rochester materials and political ephemera, 1868-1996

University of Rochester certificates, Development Fund card, and UR Pride pin, 1953, 1996, undated

Newspaper clipping relating to work at University of Rochester; correspondence relating to resignation from University of Rochester, 27 December 1956, 27 February-11 March 1980

"Berkeley's Two Concepts of Mind," by Colin Murray Turbayne, 1959

Scope and Contents

This is a reprint of an article by Colin Murray Turbayne, professor of philosophy at the University of Rochester. On
the front cover Turbayne has written, "To Janis and Frank / with affectionate greetings / from Colin."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket to Impeachment of the President, 6 May 1868</th>
<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Folder 4</th>
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</thead>
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| Frank J. Dowd campaign cards, Clerk of the Appellate Court (2), circa 1930s-1940s | Box 6 | Folder 5 |

**Scope and Contents**

Dowd's father is the candidate on these cards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handbill for Independent Reform Democrat Bernard H. Manheimer, 1940s or 1950s</th>
<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Folder 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Note from George I. McKelvey to Dowd, relating to Chester Bowles campaign button, 30 July 1962 | Box 6 | Folder 7 |

**Processing Information:**

<table>
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<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Folder 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Vote Democratic handbill featuring Adlai Stevenson, Estes Kefauver, Robert F. Wagner, and others; Democratic National Committee brochure about Richard Nixon (2), circa 1956 | Box 6 | Folder 8 |

| John F. Kennedy/Lyndon Johnson, Eugene McCarthy, and Richard Nixon bumper stickers, 1960s | Box 6 | Folder 9 |

**Processing Information:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processing Information</th>
<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Folder 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Three buttons, “I LIKE IKE,” “Nixon,” and “Nixon/Agnew” were attached to the McCarthy sticker in this folder. The buttons have been moved to box 9, trays 4 and 5. | Box 6 | Folder 10 |

| Hubert Humphrey/Edmund Muskie and George McGovern/ Sargent Shriver bumper stickers, 1968, 1972 | Box 6 | Folder 10 |

| “McCarthy for President” and “Scabs Fly for Continental” bumper stickers, circa late 1960s-1980s | Box 6 | Folder 11 |

| Richard Nixon bumper stickers (3), 1972 | Box 6 | Folder 12 |

**Scope and Contents**

One of the bumper stickers in this folder reads, “President Nixon. Now more than ever.” The other two stickers have been altered to read, “I resent Nixon. Now more than ever.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republican Centennial stamp on envelope, 1954</th>
<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Folder 13</th>
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</thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political and other ephemera, circa 1880s-1980s, undated</th>
<th>Box 7</th>
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</thead>
</table>

| “Dump Reagan” and “U.S. Out of Central America/No More Vietnams!” bumper stickers, 1980s | Box 7 |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Humphrey/Edmund Muskie campaign bag, 1968</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign newspaper, “The Stevenson-Kefauver Bandwagon”, 1956</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt presidential campaign bandana, 1912</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red and white striped cloth, undated</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potholder, “Reelect Councilman Costello,” Irondequoit, New York, undated</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William McKinley ribbons (2), 1896</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucher and Gibbs Plow Company “Imperial Third Annual Picnic” ribbon, 23 June [circa 1880s-1890s]</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton, Ohio, Citizens Committee ribbon &quot;In Memory of Our President [James] A. Garfield&quot;, 19 September 1881</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Biographical / Historical**

Dowd's grandparents Otto Rhein and Caroline Meyer Rhein lived in Canton, Ohio.

Canton Post, Number 25, Grand Army of the Republic ribbon, late 1800s or early 1900s

**Biographical / Historical**

Dowd's grandparents Otto Rhein and Caroline Meyer Rhein lived in Canton, Ohio.

Political buttons, 1940s-1960

**Scope and Contents**

This box contains three large political buttons, one for Robert Taft and two for Adlai Stevenson (one with the slogan “We Believe in Steve”).

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1860, 1896-1990s

**Scope and Contents**

Selected items in this tray include University of Rochester buttons; a Kappa Sigma fraternity pin; military pins and World War II-era buttons; Nazi-era German coins; agricultural exposition pins; Red Cross pins; and National Congress of Parents and Teachers pins. The bulk of the materials are from the 1930s. The German coins in this tray were formerly housed alongside Dowd's World War II correspondence. They may have been sent with a letter dated 20 November 1944 (see box 2, folder 5).
Scope and Contents

The bulk of the buttons in this tray relate to United States presidential elections, with several buttons promoting candidates for state and city races. The tray includes an Abraham Lincoln/Hannibal Hamlin ferrotype, which resembles a coin. It also contains celluloid buttons, including several for William McKinley and one that reads, “I’m for Crow! Are You?” Other politicians include William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles E. Hughes, Gifford Pinchot, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, William Hale “Big Bill” Thompson, Brooks (Illinois), Warren G. Harding, Alf Landon/Frank Knox, Herbert Hoover, Earl Browder/James W. Ford (Communist Party 1940), and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1940s

Scope and Contents

This tray contains buttons supporting Wendell Willkie and opposing Franklin Delano Roosevelt as presidential candidates. Anti-Roosevelt buttons feature slogans such as “No Crown for Franklin,” “No Roosevelt Dynasty,” and “Out! Stealing Third.” Several buttons show images of Willkie and his running mate Charles L. McNary.

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1940s-1950s

Scope and Contents


Political buttons and other ephemera, 1950s-1960s

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the buttons in this tray relate to United States presidential elections. Politicians include Chester Bowles, Dwight Eisenhower, Hubert Humphrey, Estes Kefauver, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon (including Nixon/Spiro Agnew), Harold Stassen, and Adlai Stevenson (including Stevenson/Kefauver and Robert F. Wagner/Stevenson/Kefauver). Among the Adlai Stevenson items in this tray are two holographic buttons. The “Bowles for President”
button in this tray was accompanied by a note to Dowd from George I. McKelvey; this correspondence is housed in box 6, folder 6.

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1960s-1980s

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the buttons in this tray relate to United States presidential elections. Politicians include Jimmy Carter (including Carter/Walter Mondale), Michael Dukakis/Lloyd Bentsen, Gerald Ford (“Betty’s Husband for President in ’76”), Hubert Humphrey, Edward Kennedy, George McGovern, Walter Mondale (including Mondale/Geraldine Ferraro), Richard Nixon (including “Impeach Nixon” and Nixon/Spiro Agnew), and Ronald Reagan (anti-Reagan). Among the Walter Mondale items in this tray are a University of Rochester “Students for Mondale” button, a United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union button, and an International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE) button.

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1896, circa 1930s-1990s

Scope and Contents


Political buttons and other ephemera, circa 1970s-1980s

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the buttons in this tray relate to elections in New York State; nine of these are Mario Cuomo buttons. The tray also includes Equal Rights Amendment buttons and a reproduction of a “Vote No on Woman Suffrage” button, a “Don’t Tread on Me” People’s Bicentennial Commission button, a “Gannett Won’t Give” button, a “Wood Works” button, a button relating to “The Progressive Years,” and New York pins unrelated to electoral politics. Politicians include Bob Abrams, Ramsey Clark, Mario Cuomo (including Cuomo/Stan Lundine and McCall/Cuomo/
Burstein), Lindley, Morin, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, O'Dwyer, and Wheeler.

Political buttons and other ephemera, circa 1930s-1990s

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the buttons in this tray relate to elections in New York State and in the Rochester area. The tray also includes buttons relating to voter registration, a New York State “JUROR” button, a Rochester Monroe County Bicentennial Committee button, an “I’m from Illinois” button, and a button urging revision of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Candidates include Mary Beth Albright, Bill Bristol, Sam Colombo, Nanette Dembritz, Joan M. Hensler, Charles Hynes, Nan Johnson, Mary Ellen Jones, Oliver Koppell, Lindsay Mains, Al Papalia, Willis, and Barbara Zartman.

Political buttons and other ephemera, circa 1970s-1990s

Scope and Contents

Selected items in this tray include Rochester, New York, buttons relating to topics such as the city’s downtown and Lilac Festival; buttons relating to labor issues; and buttons with positive or humorous messages such as “World’s Best Dad” and “Frodo Lives.”

Political buttons and other ephemera, 1896, 1930-1958

Scope and Contents

This tray contains “Democrat” and “Republican” ribbons, as well as ribbons for the Canton Women’s McKinley Club, the “14th Promenade Nationale” in St. Louis, Missouri, and political conventions in Illinois and New York State. Medals are attached to several ribbons. Nameplates on the Illinois delegate ribbons indicate that they belonged to Frank Dowd Jr.’s mother, Virginia Dowd.

Political buttons and other ephemera, circa 1930s-1980s, undated

Scope and Contents

Selected items in this tray include international buttons depicting Mikhail Gorbachev, Valentyn Moroz, and Yuriy Shukhevych, and relating to subjects such as Angolan independence and Solidarnosc (or “Solidarity”) in Poland; a Chinese decorative piece with ancient coins attached; pins for youth activities such as Girl Scouts; elephant ornaments; and patches, including a United States Army Specialized Training Program patch.

Processing Information:
Processing Information

Wendy Long, a student assistant in Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, identified the Chinese decorative item in this tray.