

- M-97 George Washington (1732-1799); seven letters, two documents dating from 1780 – 1799
- M-98 Daniel Webster (1782-1852) U. S. Senator and Representative from Massachusetts; two letters dated 1845 and 1850
- M-112 St. Louis Globe Democrat Collection of clipping and photograph files
- M-123 Confederate Imprint Collection; fifty items printed in the Confederacy from 1861 to 1865, primarily laws of the secessionist legislatures
- M-131 John Gundlach Collection on Theodore Roosevelt; 300 volumes, ten linear feet of manuscripts, 200 broadsides, photos and prints, campaign ephemera
- M-137 Irving Dilliard Journalism Collection; includes original political cartoons by Daniel Fitzpatrick
- M-238 Robert A. Young III (b. 1923) U.S. Representative, Missouri State Senator and Representative; six linear feet of holdings include seventy scrapbooks spanning 1952-1981 and an oral history transcript
- M-248 Don Hesse Political Cartoon Collection; 49 boxes of cartoon proofs and some original drawings from the late 1950s and early 1960s, many feature presidential and/or political topics

Rare Book Collections

The Mercantile Library's extensive rare book holdings include numerous tracts on American government and politics from the Revolution period with strong holdings on political issues surrounding the Civil War. Early almanacs contain many references to political personalities and issues, and these are well represented in the Library's holdings. Examples of these texts are listed below; researchers can find these and others through the University's online catalogue accessible from the "Library Catalog" link on the Mercantile Library's main page.

Selections from the Rare Book Collection

Pitkin, Timothy, 1766-1847, *A political and civil history of the United States of America : from the year 1763 to the close of the administration of President Washington, in March, 1797: including a summary view of the political and civil state of the North American colonies, prior to that period* (New Haven: H. Howe and Durrie & Peck, 1828).

Cobbett, William, 1763-1835, *Porcupine's works : containing various writings and selections exhibiting a faithful picture of the United States of America ; of their governments, laws ... : of the characters of their presidents, governors ... : and of the customs, manners, morals ... of the people ...* (London: Printed for Cobbett and Morgan ..., 1801).

Crockett Almanacks, 1839 - 1854
Crockett's Harrison Almanac of 1841

Photographic and Print Collections

- M-265 Mercantile Library Art Museum Prints & Drawings; includes political drawings by Thomas Nast (1840-1902), Joseph Keppler (1872-1956), William Gropper (1897 – 1977), and others



Research Services

Anyone is welcome to research the rare book, manuscript, *Globe Democrat* and other photographic portions of the Shopmaker Political Collections and all other Mercantile Library resources through our Rare Book Reading Room. Appointments for research are recommended but not required. Mercantile Library members may check out circulating books, and they receive discounts on fee-based services. For assistance or to make an appointment please contact the Reading Room at 314-516-7247.

For conservation reasons, the fine prints and objects in the Shopmaker Political Collections can only be viewed when they are on display in the gallery. Please direct questions regarding these materials to the curator, Julie Dunn-Morton, at 314-516-6740.

St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri– St. Louis

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Hours: Monday-Thursday: 7:30 am – 10:30 pm
 Friday: 7:30 am – 5 pm
 Saturday: 8 am – 4 pm
 Sunday: 12 pm – 8 pm

Free tours are also available Saturdays at 11:00 and Sundays at 2:00 or by appointment.*

*The hours for the Rare Book and Manuscript Reading Room, Intersession, and Summer Session vary. Please visit the UMSL libraries website at <http://www.umsl.edu/library> for an up-to-date schedule of hours and directions.

Opportunities for Researching American Political History



From the

**Dr. Allen B. and Helen S. Shopmaker
 American Political Collection**

**at the St. Louis Mercantile Library
 at the University of Missouri - St. Louis**

History of the Shopmaker Collection

In 2008 Mrs. Helen Shopmaker gave the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri – St. Louis an extensive collection of American political campaign materials that she and her late husband, Dr. Allen B. Shopmaker, had collected over many years. This comprehensive collection contains thousands of buttons, pamphlets, bumper stickers, textiles, postcards and all manner of election-related objects covering nearly every American presidential election. In honor of this tremendous gift, the Library restructured all of its presidential and election collections under the umbrella of the Dr. Allen B. & Helen S. Shopmaker Political Collection. In 2012 the Library dedicated the *Shopmaker American Political Collection Gallery* for a permanent display of election materials and changing focused exhibitions drawing on all of the Library's presidential collections.

In 2015 the Mercantile Library at UMSL received an additional gift from Mrs. Shopmaker to endow a gallery dedicated to exploring political themes specifically through print materials. This gift also generously enabled the Library to acquire four important political prints by George Caleb Bingham (1811 - 1879). This new gallery, the *Shopmaker Political Print Gallery*, presents changing exhibitions of politically-themed print materials with one exhibition each year featuring the work of George Caleb Bingham.

These two permanent galleries are the public face of the Library's political collections, representing the dozens of sub-collections, rare books, and archival materials within the Library's vast holdings that are available for researchers in American political history.

Dr. Allen B. and Helen S. Shopmaker American Political Collection

The Shopmaker Collection of political memorabilia illustrates the complexities of the campaign process and of presidential elections with materials dating from 1789 to 2012. The collection contains an extremely broad array of types of campaign promotional objects but is particularly strong in buttons, from early clothing-type buttons and paper tabs to the "flasher" buttons of the 1960s and 1970s up to buttons from recent elections. Another area of strength is in textiles; ribbons are among the earliest campaign memorabilia and were widely used to show one's support for a candidate or cause. Later hats and neck scarves became popular, leading to the functional textiles of today such as scarves, hats and t-shirts. Printed materials in the collection include bumper stickers, fans, pamphlets, posters and portraits, political cartoons and advertising materials provide a broad look at both the slogans and



ideologies expressed by the candidates and parties as well as the visual culture of the political arena. Over time, candidates have used household objects as diverse as pressed glass, china plates, silver spoons, matchbooks, cigars and even cigarette packages as campaign items. The collections depth in this area enables significant research in this material culture aspect of the campaign process.



Highlights of the Collection

Campaign buttons—The earliest forms of buttons included brass clothing buttons and paper tabs.

Sheet Music—Political songs became a popular mode of campaigning, especially in the 1900s.

Textiles—Some of the oldest campaign memorabilia in the United States are ribbons. Like their modern equivalent, bumper-stickers, supporters wore ribbons to exhibit their political preferences in the 19th-century.

Commodities—In early U.S. history, playing cards, plates, spoons, and pressed glass were popular items. By the mid-20th century, cigars, matchbooks, and razors featured the president.

Political Cartoons—The history of the political cartoon in America began in 1754 with Benjamin Franklin's drawing "Join or Die." Often employing caricature and allusion, these cartoons show both support and discontent with presidents and potential candidates.

The Shopmaker Political Print Gallery

Changing exhibitions will explore a broad variety of politically themed print materials representing the many research areas of the Library's collections. Topics represented in the Shopmaker Political Collection include presidential portraits, both in campaign posters, popular publications and the many portrait prints of candidates produced by the famous printing company Currier & Ives; scenes and documents of Missouri political conventions and scenes of voting in Missouri; public involvement in politics and voting as seen in images like George Catton Woodville's *War News from Mexico* and popular images showing the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation; regional election maps through time; the politics of Native American relations including prints and photographs of meetings and treaty signings along with treaties and related documents, and many others as evidenced by the list in this brochure.



Archival Collections

- M-1 John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) U.S. President from 1825-1829; letter
- M-6 John Bell (1797-1869) American Statesman, U. S. Senator from Tennessee; letter regarding legislation
- M-8 Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858) Senator from Missouri; document and three letters
- M-12 John Botts (1802-1869) Congressman, leader in the Whig party; letter dated 1867
- M-16 James Buchanan (1791-1868) U.S. President 1857-1861; letter dated 1847
- M-17 Aaron Burr (1756-1836); letter dated 1819
- M-19 John C. Calhoun (1782-1850) Vice President under Andrew Jackson; two letters dated 1822 and 1828
- M-20 Charles Carroll (1737-1832) political leader in the American Revolution and signer of the Declaration of Independence; letter dated 1792
- M-23 Henry Clay (1782-1850) Speaker of the House of Representatives and U. S. Senator from Kentucky, one deed dated 1830 and two letters dated 1814 and 1833
- M-25 J. J. Crittenden (1787-1852) U.S. Senator from Kentucky and Attorney General; one letter dated 1851
- M-26 David Crocket (1786-1836); letter to Andrew Jackson dated 1829
- M-35 Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790); one letter dated 1781
- M-39 Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804) U. S. Secy. of the Treasury, letter dated 1789
- M-40 John Hancock (1737-1793) Political leader in American Revolution and signer of the Declaration of Independence; letter dated 1776
- M-46 Patrick Henry (1736-1799) Political leader in the American Revolution and Governor of Virginia, one letter dated 1791
- M-50 Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) U. S. President 1829-1837; three letters dated 1818, 1829 and 1834
- M-51 Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) U.S. President 1801-1809; document dated 1819 and letter dated 1790
- M-54 G. W. Lafayette (1757-1834) French general and political leader; one letter dated 1824
- M-63 James Madison (1751-1836) U. S. President, 1809-1817; one letter dated 1821
- M-64 James Monroe (1758-1831) U. S. President, 1817-1825; one letter dated 1821
- M-76 James K. Polk (1795-1849) U. S. President (1845-1849); one letter dated 1836
- M-77 Presidential Election of 1824 Collection, hand-written ledger of electoral candidates for St. Louis County
- M-96 R. J. Walker (1801-1869) U. S. Secy. of the Treasury 1845-1849, Gov. of Kansas; one letter dated 1845