

**Guide to the
Donald Brett Collection of
Eisenhower Memorabilia**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Katy Rettig '14
Spring 2014**

MS – 157: The Donald Brett Collection of Eisenhower Memorabilia

(17 boxes, 9 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1915-1969

Bulk Dates: 1943-1960

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Provenance

Donated by Donald C. Brett in a series of accessions between the years 2010 and 2014. Most items were purchased by Brett from a variety of locations and vendors.

Biography

Don Brett's interest in Dwight David Eisenhower began in May of 1944 when Brett was nine years old and his own father had just died of pneumonia. Brett's mother bought a war bond and that act brought General Eisenhower, who was featured in many bond advertisements, to her son's attention. Brett would go on to join the National Guard and enter the Secret Service. Throughout his career, he continued to have respect for this extraordinary man as a father figure who spent his life serving the world and this nation.

Brett's calling as a collector began in high school. He wrote to various World War II generals asking for their autographs. He was impressed by how gracious the generals often were about sending stories in addition to their signatures. Eisenhower, who was then president of Columbia University, sent a letter. Eventually, Brett had a chance to meet his hero while new agent with the Secret Service. In July of 1961, he was assigned to the retired president's detail in Little Egg Harbor, NJ. Ike was, of course, playing golf. While Brett was thrilled to meet his idol, Eisenhower, the former Commander in Chief and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces turned the conversation to Brett asking about his military career. For Eisenhower, it was a chance to talk with another soldier.

Brett's career in the Secret Service had tremendous variety and poignancy. He was often assigned to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's detail and he even protected the Mona Lisa when the first lady arranged for the painting to be shown in the United States in January 1963. In October of 1963, he was sent for a six week course at Secret Service School in Washington, D.C. and was at his graduation luncheon on November 22nd when the news of President Kennedy's assassination reached him and his fellow agents. He was on the detail that met the car and accompanied the body of the President. Brett went on to serve on Johnson's and Nixon's details. Brett traveled extensively throughout his career and is now retired and living in Sarasota, Florida.

For Brett, donating his collection to Gettysburg College meant that Eisenhower's legacy will live on in those who learn about his extraordinary life. His favorite item in the collection is the 1915 West Point *Howitzer*.

Scope and Content Notes

The collection consists of items relevant to all aspects of Dwight D. Eisenhower's life and career. Most prevalent are Ike's years as president with numerous artifacts from his 1952 and 1956 presidential campaigns as well as commemorative pieces. These artifacts include a significant collection of campaign buttons, jewelry, and postcards along with other miscellaneous campaign artifacts. There is also a series of photographs mostly relating to his Army career in World War II with others from his two terms as president. Of particular interest are the 1915 and 1945 Howitzers, the United States Military Academy at West Point's yearbook and the tropical worsted wool summer uniform coat of Brigadier General Robert Ludwig Schulz, Eisenhower's military aide who continued to work with the retired general and president until Ike's death in 1969. Also included is a small box of Donald Brett's personal papers that reflect his own research interests.

Series Description

This collection is divided into nine series. **Series I:** Correspondence; **Series II:** Publications; **Series III:** Photographs; **Series IV:** Posters; **Series V:** Albums, *Sub-Series A:* Eisenhower and Son, *Sub-Series B:* Brigadier General Robert Schulz; **Series VI:** Audiovisual Material; **Series VII:** Artifacts, *Sub-Series A:* Campaign Memorabilia, *Sub-Series B:* Ephemera; **Series VIII:** Donald Brett's Personal Papers; **Series IX:** Literary Material

Series I consists of printed replies from Eisenhower, a letter from Mamie to friends, and a large envelope from the Eisenhower's. **Series II** consists of newspapers and magazines with articles either about or related to Eisenhower as President and General. **Series III** is a box of photographs from 1943 to 1969 mostly focusing on Eisenhower's war years. **Series IV** are posters of Ike used for his presidential campaigns, 1952 and 1956. **Series V, Sub-Series A** has the 1915 and 1945 Howitzers, the 1935 West Pointe Alumni Annual Report. **Series V, Sub-Series B** contains a scrapbook about Brigadier General Robert Schulz and his military uniform. **Series VI** contains documentaries about Eisenhower's life and recorded speeches. **Series VII, Sub-Series A** consists of campaign buttons, jewelry, tab badges, figurines, and other miscellaneous items related to the 1952 and 1956 campaigns. **Series VII, Sub-Series B** includes materials and items related to Eisenhower's inaugural and presidential years such as pamphlets and programs as well as holds the commemorative pieces such as souvenirs, stamps, envelopes, and postcards featuring Eisenhower or places related to him. In addition there are some paper WWII items. **Series VIII** is an accretion of Donald Brett's personal papers that relate to the acquisition of his collection and his interest in Eisenhower and so includes correspondence with Gettysburg College, materials from Eisenhower National Historic Site, and Brett's own research. **Series IX** is a assortment of books covering Eisenhower's life and legacy. Some of the books are autographed by the authors and others are signed by members of Ike's family, including son John Eisenhower and granddaughter Susan Eisenhower.

Box 1

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 – Correspondence

- 1-2 Eisenhower Printed Replies from Gettysburg, PA
- 1-3 Letter - signed “Mamie Doud Eisenhower” to “Mr. and Mrs. Ted Laucier”
- 1-4 Large envelope - from “D. D. Eisenhower” to “David Morris”

Box 2

Series 2 – Publications

- 2-1 Eisenhower Newspaper Articles
- 2-2 Time Magazine Issues with Eisenhower on the Cover 1942-1951
- 2-3 Time Magazine Issues with Eisenhower on the Cover 1952-1969

Box 3

Series 2 – Publications

- 3-1 Eisenhower National Geographic Magazines 1960, 1961, 1969
- 3-2 Magazines with Dwight David Eisenhower 1944-1969
- 3-3 Magazines with Dwight David Eisenhower 1994-2013

Box 4

Series 3 – Photographs

- 4-1 General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1943-1944
- 4-2 General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945
- 4-3 General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1946-1951
- 4-4 General Dwight D. Eisenhower, No Date
- 4-5 President Eisenhower and Beyond, 1952-1969

Box 5

Series 4 – Posters

- 5-1 Poster, “Vote for peace: Vote for prosperity: Vote for Ike”
- 5-2 Poster, “Win With Ike: Vote Straight Republican November 4th”
- 5-3 Silk screen, Elephant, “I Like Ike!”
- 5-4 Silk screen, Color Portrait of Eisenhower with printed signature
- 5-5 Poster, “America Needs Eisenhower”
- 5-6 Poster, “Dwight D. Eisenhower For President: I Like Ike”

Box 6

Series 5 – Albums, Sub-series A: Eisenhower and Son

1915 Howitzer West Pointe Yearbook, Eisenhower's graduation year
1935 Annual Alumni Report

Box 7

Series 5 – Albums, Sub-series A: Eisenhower and Son

1944 Howitzer West Pointe Yearbook, Eisenhower's son John's graduation year

Box 8

Series 5 – Albums, Sub-series B: Brigadier General Robert Schulz

Robert Schultz Scrapbook

Box 9

Series 5 – Albums, Sub-series B: Brigadier General Robert Schulz

Brig. Gen. Robert Ludwig Schulz tropical worsted summer uniform coat

Box 10

Series 6 – Audiovisual Material

Vintage Eisenhower films DVD, 2006

The American Experience: Eisenhower, 2 Tape VHS, 1993

Eisenhower in his own voice, audio on 2 cassettes, 1961 recorded

Dwight D. Eisenhower: IKE speeches CD (includes 9 speeches by Eisenhower)

General Dwight D. Eisenhower Vinyl Record speeches

Box 11

Series 7 – Artifacts, Sub-series A: Campaign Memorabilia

Campaign Buttons

Box 12

Series 7 – Artifacts, Sub-series A: Campaign Memorabilia

Campaign Jewelry

Mini Skillet

Salt and Pepper Shakers

Paper Cup

Ash Tray

Coasters

Meat Picks

Figurines

Matchbooks
Coins
Banks
License Plates
Toys

Box 13

Series 7 – Artifacts, Sub-series A: Campaign Memorabilia

“I Like Ike” Styrofoam Boater Hat

Box 14

Series 7 – Artifacts, Sub-series B: Ephemera

WWII Safe Conduct Pass
Special Orders for German-American Relations
WWII Commemorative Stamp Sheet
Stickers
Tickets
Postcards
Stamps
Envelopes
Paper hat
Comic Book
Pamphlets
Political Cartoons
Funeral Service Program

Box 15

Series 7 – Artifacts, Sub-series B: Ephemera

Eisenhower Mug
Eisenhower Bust

Box 16

Series 8 – Donald Brett’s Personal Papers

Copy of Eisenhower Christmas Card hand-drawn by Ike
Correspondence with Department of Special Collections, Gettysburg College
Research from the Library at Guildhall
Materials Related to Eisenhower National Historic Site

Box 17

Series 9 – Literary Material

Crusade in Europe by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1948 with signed book plate
Dwight D. Eisenhower: General, President, and Cook by Edward and Candace Russoli, 1990
Americans at War by Stephen E. Ambrose, 1997
Political Buttons: Book II 1920-1976 by Theodore L. Hake, 1985
Political Buttons: United States 1896-1972 by Ted Hake, 1974
Britain's Homage to 28,000 American Dead in memory of Cpl. C.D. Genova, 1952 with research inserts
Eisenhower: The President by Stephen E. Ambrose, 1984, signed by author
Eisenhower and Berlin, 1945: The Decision to Halt at the Elbe by Stephen E. Ambrose, 1967, signed by author
Eisenhower and Korea: The Forgotten War from The Eisenhower Seminar, Eisenhower National Historic Site, Gettysburg, PA, 1998
The Eisenhowers: Gettysburg's First Family by Stan Cohen, 1986
The Book of the Presidents by Vincent Wilson, Jr., 2001
Ike: Gettysburg's Gentleman Farmer by Stanley Wolf and Audrey Weiland, 2008
General Ike: A Personal Reminiscence by John S.D. Eisenhower, 2003, signed by author
Mrs. Ike: Memories and Reflections on the life of Mamie Eisenhower by Susan Eisenhower, 1996, signed by author
White House History: President Eisenhower's White House, A Journal published by the White House Historical Association, number 21, Fall 2007
Eisenhower: American Hero by The Editors of American Heritage Magazine and United Press International, 1969
Ike 1890-1990: A Pictorial History by Douglas Kinnard, 1990
Historic Photos of Dwight D. Eisenhower by Dana Lombardy, 2007 signed by Susan Eisenhower

Removed from Collection

Framed War Bonds Eisenhower Poster - Location: Storage Room Art Wall in Gettysburg College Special Collections