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## MS-157: Donald Brett Collection of Eisenhower Memorabilia

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## MS-157: Donald Brett Collection of Eisenhower Memorabilia

### **Description**

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.

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### **Keywords**

World War II, WWII, Second World War, War Photography, Dwight D. Eisenhower, West Point, Presidential Campaign, Campaign Memorabilia, President Eisenhower, Howitzers

### **Disciplines**

Cultural History | European History | History | Military History | Photography | Political History | United States History

**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

*Processed by: Katy Rettig*

*Spring 2014*

### **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