

Presidential and Inaugural Collection
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79003449>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms022004>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2022

Collection Summary

Title: Presidential and Inaugural Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1835-2021

Bulk Dates: 1944-2021

ID No.: MSS3449

Extent: 200 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79003449>

Summary: Correspondence, etiquette and protocol information cards, invitations, memorabilia, menu cards, photographs, programs, seating plans, tickets, and other ephemera relating to presidential inaugurations and presidents.

Acquisition Information

The Presidential and Inaugural Collection was acquired by the Library of Congress from various sources.

Processing History

The Presidential Inaugurations Collection was created in 2002 when Donna Ellis combined the Inaugural Ball Collection and the Presidential Inaugurations Collection into one collection. In 2022, the collection was renamed the Presidential and Inaugural Collection to reflect the wide range of material and subjects. Miles Lawlor reprocessed the collection, incorporated additional material, and created a finding aid.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Presidential and Inaugural Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Presidential and Inaugural Collection is open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Presidential and Inaugural Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Presidential and Inaugural Collection spans the years 1835-2021, with the bulk of the material dating from 1944 to 2021. The collection primarily documents presidential inaugurations and the events that have historically surrounded them, including balls and dinners, but the collection is not inclusive of every presidential inauguration. The collection includes commemorative presidential inauguration buttons, cutouts of candidates' faces, COVID-19 face masks from the 2021 inauguration, a Metrorail pass, programs, and tickets, as well as invitations to balls, lunches, and other official events staged

by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. The Washington Assemblies file includes invitations to balls celebrating George Washington's birthday.

The Kathleen D. Harney files pertain to her time serving as chief of the White House Press Releases Office, during four presidential administrations between 1944 and 1967. Harney worked in the White House library where she was in charge of press release files, and organized and maintained presidential statements. Her files contain Christmas cards, commemorative programs, correspondence, invitations, photographs, and other ephemera.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged with the Washington Assemblies file first followed by Kathleen D. Harney's files. The remaining files are arranged chronologically by inauguration.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Harney, Kathleen D. Kathleen D. Harney papers. 1944-1970.
Washington, George, 1732-1799--Anniversaries, etc.

Organizations

United States. Congress. Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

Subjects

COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020---Social aspects--United States.
Inauguration Day.
Presidents--United States--Inauguration.
Presidents--United States.

Places

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Washington Assemblies, 1835-1843
BOX 1	Harney, Kathleen D., 1944-1970 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Inaugural events
BOX 1	1841, Harrison, William Henry
BOX 1	1849, Taylor, Zachary
BOX 1	1857, Buchanan, James
BOX 1	1865, Lincoln, Abraham
BOX 1	1893, Cleveland, Grover
BOX 1	1897-1901, McKinley, William
BOX 1	1909, Taft, William H.
BOX 1	1933-1941, Roosevelt, Franklin D.
BOX 1	1949, Truman, Harry S.
BOX 1	1953-1957, Eisenhower, Dwight D.
BOX 1	1961, Kennedy, John F.
BOX 1	1965, Johnson, Lyndon B.
BOX 1	1969, Nixon, Richard M.
BOX 2	1973, Nixon, Richard M.
BOX 2	2001, Bush, George W.
BOX 2	2009, Obama, Barack
BOX 2	2017, Trump, Donald (2 folders)
BOX 2	2021, Biden, Joseph R., Jr.