

Record Groups AR

Artifact Collections

Repository:
Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125

Reviewed 2020-08-03

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Record Group Descriptions and Related Series:

Record Group Number: AR

Record Group Name: Artifacts

Historical Note:

Under the direction of the state archivist, the Massachusetts Archives is responsible for securing, preserving, and managing noncurrent records of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts determined to possess archival value. Incidentally it has become the repository for certain objects related to events in Massachusetts history by contemporaneous or commemorative usage, including items presented directly to the Archives and those presented to officials of state government.

Artifacts have been designated in the following categories: ballot boxes, books, canes, cards, coats of arms, coffee grinders, coins, columns and steps (including bases and capitols from the Massachusetts State House), currency (including an extensive group of Revolutionary bills), display cases, dog tags, civilian dress, military dress, drums, engraving plates (including currency designs by Paul Revere), figurines, gavels, guns, medals, nails, paperweights, pens, pins, plaques, plates, ribbons, seals (including those from Massachusetts colonial charters of 1629, 1687, and 1691), shovels, silhouettes, stamps, swords, time capsules, and watches. Military artifacts among the above date from the Revolution and the Civil War.

Restrictions: Access to Artifacts is restricted; Access by permission of curator Massachusetts Archives only.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/180705810>

Related Series:

Ballot Boxes

Identifier: AR1
Items: Ballot Box
Lock Box and Punch Cards
EVM Votomatic Device

Dress - Civilian

Identifier: AR2
Items: Commemorative Scarf and Letter, ca. 1910-1919
Jody King's Inaugural Gown, 1982

Pins

Identifier: AR3
Items: Victory Garden Pin, 1917
Robert Gould Shaw School (Boston) Pin, 1913
Make it In Massachusetts Lapel Pins and Tie Tack, 1980

Shovels

Identifier: AR4
Items: Hardhat and Shovel used at Massachusetts Archives Groundbreaking, 1982

Silhouettes

Identifier: AR5
Items: Silhouette of Jonathan Fowle, 1788

Stamps

Identifier: AR6
Items: Die-Proof of Commemorative Postage Stamp (2 cent) Massachusetts Bay Tercentennial, 1930
U.S. Constitution Commemorative State of Old State House, Boston, 1987

Swords

Identifier: AR7
Items: Dragoon Sword (Pallash-Brunswick), ca. 1750-1759
General George Strong's Sword and Scabbard
Civil War Presentation Sword, ca. 1961-1965
Ceremonial Sword and Scabbard in Case, 1970
Small Rapier-like Sword, ca. 1700-1799

Time Capsules

Identifier: AR8
Items: Brass Time Capsule Relics (5), 1898
Time Capsule, 1981
Time Capsule, 1976

Watches

Identifier: AR9
Items: Pocket Watch, 1880

Books

Identifier: AR10
Items: Chinese Publication (3)

Bottles

Identifier: AR10.5
Items: Massachusetts Standard Record Ink Bottle, ca. 1920-1929

Canes

Identifier: AR11
Items: Hickory Cane Presented to the Commonwealth, ca. 1800-1899

Cards

Identifier: AR12
Items: Printed Condolence Card from President Abraham Lincoln, 1864

Coats of Arms

Identifier: AR13
Items: Royal and Ancient Arms of Nova Scotia (3)
Bridge Medallion, ca. 1900-1999

Coffee Grinders

Identifier: AR14
Items: Wooden Coffee Grinder/Mill, 1885

Coins

Identifier: AR15
Items: Age of the American Revolution – Coins (31) from Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Commemorative Coin of the Pilgrims' Landing, 1985
Franklin Mint States of Union Mini Coins (50) Government Edition, 1970
Franklin Mint States of Union Commemorative Medal (3)
Massachusetts, 1970

Columns/Steps/Plinths

Identifier: AR16
Items: Column Base from State House (Bulfinch)
Massachusetts State House Medallion and Nails, 1795-1798
Corinthian Wooden Capitols (Bulfinch)
State House Granite Step, 1826-1833
State House Granite Plinth Marked 1795, 1995
Plaster from State House Cornerstone Renovation, 2015

Currency

Identifier: AR17
Items: Revolutionary Currency, 1775-1780
Eight Dollar Bill (State of Massachusetts Bay), 1780
Wooden Currency Box, 1828

Display Cases

Identifier: AR18
Items: Wood and Glass Display Case

Dog Tags

Identifier: AR19
Items: Civil War Dog Tag, 1861

Drawings

Identifier: AR19.5
Items: Drawing of Suffolk Street, Holyoke, 2010

Dress - Military

Identifier: AR20
Items: Brunswick Hessian Helmet (Grenadier's Miter Hat), 1777
Civil War Kepi Hat, ca. 1861-1865
Holster and Part of a Bridle and Saddle, ca. 1860-1869
Major General Joseph Hooker's Service Spurs, 1862
Confederate Soldier's Leather and Cloth Pouch, ca. 1861-1865
Helmet, Mess Kit, Gas Mask, Puttees

Drums

Identifier: AR21
Items: Bunker Hill Drum and Plaque, 1775
Bennington Drum and Plaque, 1777

English Drum, 1861
Civil War Drum (Baltimore), 1861
Brunswick Drum with Shoulder Strap and Belt, 1777

Engraving Plates

Identifier: AR22
Items: Engraving Plate, 1860
Engraving Plate – Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Governors
Hancock and Winthrop
Paul Revere Engraving Plates (7), 1775-1779

Figurines

Identifier: AR23
Items: “Spirit of Freedom” Figurine, 1795

Framed Documents

Identifier: AR23.5
Items: Boston England Admiralty Charter (facsimile), 1573

Gavels

Identifier: AR24
Items: Gavel, 1883
Gavel, 1894

Guns

Identifier: AR25
Items: Infantry Musket with Bayonet (Brunswick/Hessian)
Long Barrel Musket, ca. 1700-1799
Musket (Whitney) of Charles A. Taylor, 1861
Musket (Whitney) of Charles A. Taylor – Plaque, 1861
U.S. Springfield Army Rifles (2) Model 1898, 1899-1990
Drill Rifles (2)

Medals

Identifier: AR26
Items: World’s Columbian Exposition Award Medal and Diploma, 1893
Panama-Pacific International Exposition Medal of Award, 1915
Benjamin Franklin Medal of Congress, 1956
State of the Union Medals (50), 1963-1964
Commemorative Medals (2) of the Pilgrims, 1970

National Governors' Conference Statehood Medals (48), 1974
Official Flags of the Fifty States – Case, 1974
Official Flags of the Fifty States – Silver Ingots, 1974
Royall House (Medford) Medallion, ca. 2000-2010
Massachusetts State Seal Medal

Nails

Identifier: AR27
Items: Wooden Dowels (4) and Handmade Nails (21), 1795

Paperweights

Identifier: AR28
Items: Paperweight for 250th Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's Birth, 1956

Pens

Identifier: AR29
Items: World Memorial Pen, 1992

Plaques

Identifier: AR30
Items: Governor John Davis Bas-Relief
French Legion Award, 1918
Bicentennial Commemorative Plaque, 1976
Space Shuttle Collage, 1984
Builders' Plates (3)
Cushing Memorial Chapel, 2004

Plates

Identifier: AR31
Items: State House Commemorative Plate, 1949

Ribbons

Identifier: AR32
Items: Funeral Ribbon/Bow for President Zachary Taylor, 1850
Massachusetts Tercentenary Exposition Ribbon, 1930

Seals

Identifier: AR33
Items: Replica of an Elizabethan Wax Seal
Great Seal of King Charles I (Wax Reproduction – 2)

Great Seal of King Charles I (Plaster Reproduction), 1930
Queen Elizabeth I Seal, ca. 1550-1600
King James II Seal: Andros Commission, 1686
Seal of William and Mary Charter (Medallion), 1691
Hale Family Seals (3)
Die of State Seal (1885), 1898
Dies (14) of Massachusetts State Seal
Great Seal of Charles I (Massachusetts Bay Charter), 1629