

# Finding Aid for the Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Memorabilia Collection

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## **Descriptive Summary**

Repository: University Archives, Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries, One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130, Telephone: (314) 935-5444 or (314) 935-9730, Fax (314) 935-8320, e-mail: [spec@wumail.wustl.edu](mailto:spec@wumail.wustl.edu), website: <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives>

Creator: Marc Mellon.

Title: Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Memorabilia Collection.

Dates: 2009.

Quantity: 1.0 linear feet.

Language: English.

## **Historical Note**

The 2009 Official Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Medal was sold as a collectible and the proceeds from the sale were used to fund the inaugural events of January 20, 2009. The obverse (front) of the medal features a portrait of Obama and was designed by Marc Mellon, a representational sculptor, well known for his portrait busts, commemorative statues, and other works in bronze. The reverse (back) of the medal features the Inaugural Seal with a split wreath on either side, laurel leaves on the left symbolizing victory, and oak leaves on the right symbolizing wisdom and was designed by well known medalist and former engraver for the U.S. Mint, Thomas D. Rogers. The first Official Inaugural Medal was made for the second inauguration of William McKinley in 1901. There has been an official medal for each Presidential inauguration ever since.

The Capitol Flag Program began in 1937 when a Member of Congress requested a flag that had flown over the Capitol. Over the years the focus of the program gradually expanded to encompass the commemoration of national holidays and various special events, as well as to honor the work of groups such as schools and civic organizations.

## **Scope and Content Notes**

This collection consists of the 2009 Official Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Medal and the artists' original concept for the medal as well as a U.S. flag that was flown over the United States Capitol on January 20, 2009.

## **Arrangement**

The medals are stored in Box 01 and the U.S. flag and certificate are stored in Box 02.

## Administrative Information

### Source of Collection

The two medals were donated to the University Archives by Marc Mellon and Babette Bloch in November 2009. Marc and Babette's daughter Julia Bloch Mellon was a student at Washington University at the time of Barack Obama's inauguration and at the time of the donation.

The Flag and certificate were given to the Archives by Patricia Rolfe, Washington University School of Law Facilities Manager and the Chancellor's Office in December 2009.

### Accruals

There are no accruals.

### Processing Information

Compiled by Sonya Rooney in December 2009.

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions to access.

### Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of University Archives Materials.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Washington University Archives a hard copy of the Notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish University Archives Materials form.

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## Collection Contents

Box No.	Folder
01	2009 Official Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Medal (a 2 3/4" bronze medal) includes Certificate of Authenticity, "History of the Official Inaugural Medal" by H. Joseph Levine, and wooden stand
	Artists' original concept for the Barack Obama Presidential Inaugural Medal (2 3/4" bronze medal) includes wooden stand

02

U.S. Flag and certificate “This is to certify that the flag was flown over the United States Capitol on January 20, 2009. At the request of the Honorable Chet Edwards, Member of Congress, this flag was flown in honor of Washington University School of Law, in recognition of the Inauguration of President Barack Obama., Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, Acting Architect of the Capitol”