

Collection of Boston Post Cane Materials  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Repository Identifier**

mawelhs

**Local Identifier**

2016.05.6

**Name and Location of Repository**

The Wellesley Historical Society  
229 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
(781) 235-6690  
[www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Title**

Collection of Boston Post Cane Materials

**Date**

1956 – 2012

**Extent**

.5 linear feet, 1 box

**Name of Creator**

Wellesley Historical Society  
Boston Post Cane Committee

**Historical Note**

The Boston Post Cane is a physical walking cane awarded to the oldest member of the town, since the tradition's inception in 1909. The cane was given to the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, along with 431 towns across New England as a part of a promotional effort by the now defunct newspaper the Boston Post. Each town was tasked with awarding the cane to its oldest living member. Many canes have been lost over time, but Wellesley has retained ownership of its own cane and continued the award process. Stewards of the Wellesley cane have included the Board of Selectmen, the Wellesley Historical Society, the Town Clerk's Office, and the Boston Post Cane Committee. The Wellesley cane currently resides at the Wellesley Historical Society.

**Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains materials primarily assembled by the Boston Post Cane Committee. Materials contained in the collection include development of policies, procedures, and correspondence of the Boston Post Cane Committee (Wellesley, MA) including housing and transfer of the cane, selection process of recipients, award ceremony planning and execution. Working notes, correspondence, and publications regarding the selection of the next cane recipient, including biography research, supply examples and ordering information necessary to the awards process and care of the cane, blank award certificates, and vendor information for materials. A compiled history of Wellesley's past recipients including correspondence, timeline

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research materials, and notes. Topical research and background of the canes, both Wellesley-specific and New England in general. Correspondence gives research assistance and suggestions for other towns interested in recovering their canes. Photographs of the cane, a slide presentation from a Boston Post Cane Committee meeting including award ceremony, pictures from an award ceremony, photos of recipients used for local publications, and a ceremonial award pin.

### **Index Terms**

Award presentations  
Boston globe  
Clippings  
Correspondence  
Local media  
Massachusetts — Wellesley  
New England — History  
Photographs  
Slides (Photography)  
Wellesley Historical Society  
Wellesley (Mass.) — History  
Wellesley (Mass.) — Social life and customs

### **System of Arrangement**

This collection is organized into five series and arranged by subject:

- I. Contemporary Materials for Committee Use; 1957 – 1964, 1973, 1983 – 2007, & undated
- II. Cane Recipient Chronology; 1972 – 1975, 1991, 2001, 2007, & undated
- III. Cane History; 1967 – 1969, 1983 – 1998, 2010, & undated
- IV. Photographic Materials; 1969, 1988, 1994 – 2001, & undated
- V. Objects; undated

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org  
(781) 235-6690

### **Physical Access**

No restrictions.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

### **Languages and Scripts of the Material**

English

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2016.05

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**Related Materials**

Wellesley Historical Society; Objects Collection: Boston Post Cane [2017.38.1]

**Accruals**

The Historical Society may add materials to the collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

**Description**

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Michelle M. Slater in November 2017.

**Bibliography**

Clark, Tim. "Keepers of the Cane." *Yankee*, March 1983, 162-67.

Grozier, Edwin A., ed. "The Boston Post Gold Head Canes." *Boston Post*, August 9, 1909.

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**Container List**

***I.* Contemporary Materials for Committee Use; 1957 – 1964, 1973, 1983 – 2007, & undated**

This series contains contemporary materials used by the Boston Post Cane Committee.

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: Selection and Award Process for Cane Recipients; 1957, 1973, 1991 – 1998, 2000 – 2009, 2016 & undated  
Folder 2: Stewardship Policy & Procedures; 1960 – 1964, 1983, 1989 – 1991, & undated  
Folder 3: Supplies & Care, Vendor Information; 1994, 2003, 2007, & undated

***II.* Cane Recipient Chronology; 1972 – 1975, 1991, 2001, 2007, & undated**

This series contains research notes on the past recipients of the Boston Post Cane in Wellesley.

**Box 1**

- Folder 4: Recipient Chronology Notes & Research; undated  
Folder 5: Working Record of Recipients Compiled; 1972 – 1975, 1991, 2001, 2007, & undated

***III.* Cane History; 1967 – 1969, 1983 – 1998, 2010, & undated**

This series contains research materials on the general history of the Boston Post Canes, and methodology.

**Box 1**

- Folder 6: Cane Research/Recovery Assistance to Non-Wellesley Towns; 1983 – 1998, 2010, & undated  
Folder 7: Internal Research Correspondence & Methodology; 1967 – 1969, 1993 – 1994, & undated

***IV.* Photographic Materials; 1969, 1988, 1994 – 2001, & undated**

This series contains photographic materials from the collection.

**Box 1**

- Folder 8: Award Ceremony Binder Contents, Evo Malagutti; 2001  
Folder 9: Photographs of Cane; 1994  
Folder 10: Recipient Photographs; 1969, 1988, 1996, & 1999  
Folder 11: Slideshow from BPC Meeting feat. Maurita McKlusky's Award; 1994

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**V. Objects; undated**

This series contains one ceremonial award pin.

**Box 1**

Folder 12: Cane Recipient Commemorative Pin; undated