



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Boston Tercentenary Committee records

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Boston Tercentenary Committee records
Collection No.:	0200.002
Dates:	1829-1830, 1928-1930 (Bulk, 1930)
Quantity:	3.0 Cubic feet

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Historical note](#)

[Scope and Contents note](#)

SERIES LIST

[Series I: Bicentennial time capsule and correspondence](#)

[Series II: Tercentenary Celebration programs, tickets, etc.](#)

[Series III: Publications](#)

[Series IV: Posters](#)

[Series V: Scrapbooks](#)

Historical note

The Boston Tercentenary Committee was reorganized at a meeting held for the purpose in the Old South Meeting House on January 30, 1930, by His Honor, James M. Curley, Mayor of Boston, who presided at the meeting. The basis of organization was the plan and personnel which had been agreed upon and started by Mayor Curley in approval of a recommendation from a committee of the Citizens' Public Celebrations Association in November, 1925. Municipal preparations were mostly dormant during four years of an intervening municipal administration; but another citizens' organization developed a comprehensive state-wide plan for the 300th anniversary celebration of Massachusetts Bay.

Immediately after the reappointment of the Boston Tercentenary Committee of 1930 and the naming of a Plan and Scope committee and some 50 sub-committees to which were assigned members of the General

committee of eight hundred interested men and women of Boston, headquarters were established in City Hall. Weekly meetings of the Executive Committee and frequent meetings of sub-committees rapidly formulated the necessary plans, this enabling Boston to resume its proper place with the rest of the state.

The Boston Committee recognized the pioneer work and considerable progress of the state-wide program which had been made by the two citizens' organizations; and the State's official commission; and the Boston Committee, with the approval of the Mayor, arranged to co-ordinate its celebration program with that of the Commonwealth, as laid out by the Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission and also with the Tercentenary Conference of City and Town Committees, Inc., as well as with the pioneer general promotion organization, Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary, Inc.

The policy decided for Boston's own participation in the Tercentenary was to designate September 14-20 inclusive as "Boston Week": this including September 17, which is the date of the official founding of Boston by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Company under Governor John Winthrop in 1630. At the "Towne Meeting and Public Reception", on the evening of September 16th, Governors of several states and Mayors of New England and Canadian cities were present as municipal guests together with His Worship, Mayor Reuben Salter of Boston, England. The historic civic parade on the 17th of September used as a precedent the 250th anniversary with a great procession of the organizations and interests of the Boston of today with the story of the developments of three hundred years.

It was decided throughout the year all established holidays should focus attention on the 300th anniversary and this policy started with a combined Washington-Lincoln public meeting on February 16, followed by Tercentenary events in the Evacuation Day program of March 17, on Patriots' Day, April 19, again on Bunker Hill Day, June 17th; and then on Independence Day, July 4, particular attention was given in the regular celebration features, with a pageant of Boston given twice on Boston Common on the 4th.

Source: History of the Tercentenary Committee by Everett B. Mero in the "Official Tercentenary Program of the City of Boston" 1930.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

This collection includes records relating to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Boston. Mayor James M. Curley served as the honorary chairman of the Boston Tercentenary Committee. Included in the collection is a time capsule that was created by the city government for the bicentennial celebration with instructions to be opened by the Mayor on September 17, 1930. The materials in the time capsule document the 200th anniversary celebration. Also included is a letter from the Chief Marshal of the 200th anniversary parade to the Chief Marshal of the 300th anniversary parade handing over to him a truncheon. The location of this truncheon is unknown.

The rest of the collection includes records documenting the year-long celebration in 1930. These records include tickets, programs, catalogues, brochures, publications, posters advertising events and scrapbooks. The four volumes of scrapbooks include news clippings documenting all types of events and activities relating to the celebration and are arranged chronologically.

The collection is divided into 5 series: Bicentennial time capsule and correspondence; Tercentenary Celebration programs, tickets, etc.; Publications; Posters; and Scrapbooks.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Series I: Bicentennial time capsule and correspondence, 1829-1830**Sub series A: Time capsule**

Box		
1		Tin Box engraved "To the Mayor of Boston to be opened September 17th 1930 - account of Celebration 1830", 1830
1	1	Letter of Samuel Ellis explaining contents of box, 1830 September
1	1	Proceedings of Celebration of 1830
1	1	Map of Boston, 1829
1	2	"Daily Evening Transcript", 1830 September 18

Sub series B: Correspondence

Box	Folder	
1	3	Letter of Chief Marshal of 1830 Celebration to Chief Marshal of 1930 Celebration, 1830 September 17

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series II: Tercentenary Celebration programs, tickets, etc., 1930

Box	Folder	
2	1	"Official Tercentenary Program of the City of Boston", 1930 (1 volume)
2	2	Tickets, 1930 June-September
2	3	Catalogue of Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibition, 1930 July
2	4	Attractions and Events program, 1930 July-December
2	5	Parade Committee general orders, 1930 September 10
2	6	Attractions and Events program, 1930 September-October
2	7	Invitation to Dedication Ceremonies of the Memorial of the Founders, 1930 September 16
2	8	Program for Dedication Ceremonies of the Memorial of the Founders, 1930 September 16
2	9	Invitation to Towne Meeting and Reception to his Worship Reuben Salter, Mayor of Boston, England, 1930 September 16
2	10	Towne Meeting and Reception program, 1930 September 16
2	11	Banquet Menu, 1930 September 18
2	12	Invitation to Banquet for Lord Mayor of Boston, England, 1830 September 18
2	13	"City Record", 1930 September 20
2	14	Invitation to Banquet tendered to Honorable Nobile Giacomo de Martino, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Italy, 1930 October 12
2	15	Invitation to Columbus Day Ceremonies and Reception, 1930 October 12
2	16	Tercentenary Art Book, 1930
2	17	Portraits of Boston City Councilors [printed], 1930-1931
2	18	"The Massacre Anniversary of 1775" program, 1930 June 17
2	19	"Municipal Observance of Independence Day" program, 1930 Jul 4
2	20	"Oedipus Rex" program, 1930 Jul 29
2	21	"Boston's Heritage: A Tercentenary Pageant", 1930 Aug 13

2 22 "The Soul of America" program, 1930 Sep 19

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series III: Publications, 1928-1930

Box	Folder	
2	23	"Boston" - Booklet prepared...by the Commercial, Industrial and Publicity Bureau, 1930
2	24	"Highway Number System in New England", 1930
2	25	Boston Chamber of Commerce Tourist Brochure, 1930
2	26	"This Week in Boston", 1930 July 27
2	27	"Stranger's Directory", 1930
2	28	Boston Chamber of Commerce booklet, 1929 October
2	29	Boston Chamber of Commerce booklet, 1928
2	30	Boston Elevated Railway Guide and Information, 1930
2	31	"Dorchester Old and New", 1930

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series IV: Posters, 1930

Box	Folder	
2	32	Fine Arts Exhibition poster, 1930 July 7-31
2	32	Tercentenary Air Show poster, 1930 September 5-7

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series V: Scrapbooks, 1930 (4 volumes)

Scrapbooks of news clippings relating to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Boston.

Volume	
1	1930 January 1-1930 June 18
2	1930 June 18-1930 August 7
3	1930 July 22-1930 September 28
4	1930 September 27-1930 December 31

[Return to the Series List](#)