

*UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA*



The University Archives  
and Records Center

A Guide to the  
Walter J. Cowen, 1917 - 1996  
Papers, Photographs and Memorabilia, 1925 - 1975

10 Cubic ft.

UPT 50 C874

Prepared by Kaiyi Chen  
1998

The University Archives and Records Center  
3401 Market Street, Suite 210  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3358  
215.898.7024  
Fax: 215.573.2036  
<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/>  
Mark Frazier Lloyd, Director

**Guide to the  
Walter J. Cowan, 1917 - 1996  
Papers, Photographs and Memorabilia, 1925 - 1978**

**UPT 50 C874**

10 Cubic ft.

Prepared by Kaiyi Chen  
1998

*Access is granted in accordance with the [Protocols for the University Archives and Records Center](#).*

**PROVENANCE**

Gift of Mrs. Walter J. Cowan, Jr., to the University Archives and Records Center of the University of Pennsylvania, 18 November 1998.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Walter J. Cowan, Jr., born in Long Island, N. Y., graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a B. S. degree in 1938. He worked in sales department at Schmidt's Brewery of Philadelphia until 1966 when he retired. As an alumnus, he was president of his class for twenty years. After his retirement, he served as Associate Athletic Director, a volunteer position, of the Athletic Department of the University of Pennsylvania for fourteen years. He died in February 1996.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This personal collection by Walter J. Cowan reflects his interest as a student in University sports activities as well as his work as a volunteer with the University Athletic Department after his retirement. The collection consists of various awards and certificates he received either for his participation in University sports teams or as member of fraternity organizations, photographs, a replica of the Boy Scout statue and a medal relief sculpture *Pennsylvania Relay Carnival* both by R. Tait McKenzie, and other miscellaneous memorabilia artifacts.

**Walter J. Cowan, 1917 - 1996**  
**Papers, Photographs and Memorabilia, 1925 - 1978**

**UPT 50 C874**

*Access is granted in accordance with the [Protocols for the University Archives and Records Center](#).*

**INVENTORY**

I. Polyplaster replica of *The Boy Scout*, by R. Tait McKenzie. Original work completed in 1914. Original was one-quarter life size; ten copies issued. Original owned by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the late Marshall Foch, and members of the Philadelphia Boy Scout Council, to whom the copyright was presented.

On the wooden base of this replica of the original work by McKenzie appears the following citation: “‘The Boy Scout’, Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, Presented to: Walter J. Cowan, Jr., Assistant to Director, University of Pennsylvania Athletic Department Football Scout Day Coordinator, 1968-1978, by: The Tri-State Delaware Valley Boy Scout Councils June 14, 1978”

Physical description: the statuette, cast in plaster with a green-colored glaze giving the effect of bronze, is 16.5 inches high including a circular pedestal on which appears the twelve virtues of the Boy Scout. The statuette itself, exclusive of the pedestal, is 15 inches high. The pedestal stands on a wood base, ten inches square. A plastic plate is affixed to the wood base and contains the inscription transcribed above. The statuette is damaged, the scabbard hanging free from the Boy Scout’s belt shattered by impact, revealing the internal wire frame of the plaster cast.

**Walter J. Cowan**  
**UPT 50 C874**  
**Inventory**

II. Medal relief sculpture, *Pennsylvania Relay Carnival*, by R. Tait McKenzie, 1925. Bronze medal, 18 inches in diameter, mounted on a wood base, 24 inches in diameter. This medal was cast in three sizes, the largest for use by athletic clubs, to be hung as a shield. This medal was struck in 1925, the obverse showing Benjamin Franklin greeting four members of the relay team, the last holding the baton. The four figures were modeled from four celebrated Pennsylvania runners: Brown, Madeira, Orton, and Meredith, three of whom were Olympic champions.

III. Oversize aerial photograph of the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, with the city of Philadelphia in the background. Photograph by "Skyphotos, P. O. Box 6110, Philadelphia 15, Penna.," dated April 1956. View extends from 39th Street in the foreground to Vine Street on the north, to South Street on the south, to the Delaware River and the Camden waterfront in the far background. Dimensions: 24 inches wide by 20 inches high. Placed in Flat Case File, drawer 74.

IV. Small miscellaneous items

Box 1 (oversize)

FF 1 Four photographs, all 8 by 10 black and white glossy finish, 1975-1978

A) Walter and Helene Cowan at University Ice Rink, Penn Hockey Team. US Olympic Team, 14 November 1975. Photographer.

B) Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships. Richard Di Batista presenting "Manager of the Meet" trophy to Walter J. Cowan, Jr., 4 March 1978. Photographer unknown.

C) Upper Quad Triangle, 37th & Spruce Streets. Russell Heuer presenting Walter J. Cowan with Class of 1938 award for best costume, 21 May 1978, on the occasion of the 40th reunion of the Class of 1938. Photograph by "Frank Ross, Photography, 5145 Asbury Avenue, Ocean City, N.J. 08226."

IV. Small miscellaneous items

Box 1 (oversize)

FF 1 Four photographs, all 8 by 10 black and white glossy finish, 1975-1978 (Cont.)

D) Frank R. Fultz (on left), Council Executive of the Valley Forge Council, Boy Scouts of America, presenting sixteen inch polyplaster replica of "The Boy Scout" by R. Tait McKenzie to Walter J. Cowan, Jr. (in center), assisted by Joe Brown, McKenzie's student (on right) in the Lloyd P. Jones Gallery of Sculpture of R. Tait McKenzie, 14 June 1978. Photographer unknown.

FF 2 Oversize photographic reproduction, 12 x 15 black and white with glossy finish, of the University of Pennsylvania football team at Franklin Field versus Carlisle Indians, 6 November 1897; reproduction dated 1983. Photographer unknown.

FF 3 Two group photographs, 14 x 11 black and white

A) University of Pennsylvania Varsity Basketball Team, 1938; Walter J. Cowan, Jr., Manager (at the center, standing, in suit and tie); Photograph by "University Photographic Service, 3443 Woodland Avenue, Phila., PA"

B) Senior Sphinx Society, 1938, Walter J. Cowan, Jr., on first row, seated, at far left. Photograph by "Merin-Baliban, 1010 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA"

FF 4 Six public presentation certificates awarded to Walter J. Cowan, Jr., during his undergraduate years at the University of Pennsylvania:

A) Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Chapter, membership certificate, 23 March 1935. Dimensions: 10 inches wide by 8 inches high.

B) Phi Kappa Beta Junior Society, membership certificate, 18 May 1936. Dimensions: 10 inches wide by 8 inches high.

C) Sphinx Senior Society, membership certificate, 25 May 1937. Dimensions: 10 inches wide by 8 inches high.

IV. Small miscellaneous items (Cont.)

Box 1 (oversize)

FF 4 D) Houston Hall, Student Board of Directors, membership certificate, “for the years 1936-1938.” Dimensions: 10 inches wide by 8 inches high.

E) University of Pennsylvania, Department of Physical Education, award of “the Managers P to Walter J. Cowan, Jr., as Manager of the [Varsity] Basketball Team of 1938.” Dimensions: 14 inches wide by 11 inches high.

F) University of Pennsylvania, Department of Physical Education, award of “the Varsity P to Walter J. Cowan, Jr., as member of the [Varsity] Baseball Team of 1938.” Dimensions: 14 inches wide by 11 inches high.

FF 5 University of Pennsylvania, “The Ivy Emblem,” printed by the University of Pennsylvania Printing Office in commemoration of the award of a Franklin Gold Medal “Best of the Year” for 1966. “The Ivy Emblem” was first designed and printed by the University in 1956 and given to the members of the Benjamin Franklin Associates (composed of major, annual donors to the University). Dimensions: 13 inches wide by 14 inches high. 4” by 5” color transparency enclosed.

Box 2

Object 1 Seal of the University of Pennsylvania, six and a half inches in diameter, mounted on a wood base in shape of a shield, ten inches wide and fourteen inches tall. This is the sixth corporate seal of the University, adopted in 1900 and superseded in 1933. It was designed by Alfred M. Githens, B.S. in the College, 1896.

Object 2 Coat of Arms of the University of Pennsylvania, embossed on a nine inch square of leather, which, in turn, is mounted on an eleven inch square wood base. The University’s Coat of Arms was adopted by the Trustees in 1933. This presentation piece was given to Walter J. Cowan, Jr. in 1938, as a graduation present from his College roommate, George B. Peters (B.S. in Econ., 1938).

Object 3 Sterling silver miniature plate, five inches in diameter. On the observe, affixed with the Coat of Arms of the University, the Coat of Arms surrounded by the phrase, “Alumni Annual Giving Award,” and inscribed, “1962 - 1963, Walter J. ) Cowan, Jr., W-38, Class President.” Manufacturer’s mark on base, “Randahl, Sterling, 4.”

IV. Small miscellaneous items (Cont.)

Box 2

- Object 4 Silver-plated bowl, eight inches in diameter, affixed with the seal of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association and inscribed, "To The Manager of Meet, 1967." Manufacturer's mark on base, "EPCA Bristol Silver Plate 68."
- Object 5 Silver-plated bowl, eight inches in diameter, affixed with the seal of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association and inscribed, "To the Manager of Meet, 1978." No manufacturer's mark on base. Pictured in photograph described above at Box 1 (oversize), FF 1, B).

Box 3

- Object 1 Ceramic ornamental horn and stand, 7 inches in length by 6 inches high, titled "Pennsylvania Basketball 1972-1973," with transfer print of University of Pennsylvania coat of arms and Varsity Men's Basketball team season record for 1973. Adhesive label of manufacturer applied to underside of the ceramic stand: "Lewis Bros. Ceramics Inc., Trenton, N. J."
- Object 2 Miniature ceramic beer stein two and one quarter inches in diameter at the base and two and three quarters in height, titled "University of Pennsylvania," with transfer print of the University coat of arms. No maker's mark. Not dated.
- Object 3 Second miniature ceramic beer stein two and one quarter inches in diameter at the base and two and three quarters in height, titled "University of Pennsylvania," with transfer print of the University coat of arms. No maker's mark. Not dated.
- Object 4 Full size ceramic beer stein four and three quarter inches in diameter at the base and six inches in height, titled "Pennsylvania Basketball 1971-1972," with transfer print of the University of Pennsylvania's coat of arms and Varsity Men's Basketball team season record for 1972. No maker's mark.
- Object 5 Full size ceramic beer stein three and three quarter inches in diameter at the base and five and three quarter inches in height, titled "Football 1982: Ivy League Co Champs," with transfer print of the University of Pennsylvania's coat of arms and Varsity Football team season record for 1982. Manufacturer's mark on base, "Concepts Unlimited, Inc., Pennington, N. J."

IV. Small miscellaneous items (Cont.)

Box 3

- Object 6 Full size ceramic beer stein four and one half inches in diameter at the base and five and three quarter inches in height, without title, but with poor quality transfer print of the University of Pennsylvania's coat of arms. Manufacturer's mark on base, "N". Not dated.
- Object 7 Full size ceramic beer mug three and three quarter inches in diameter at the base and four and one half inches in height, titled "University of Pennsylvania, Athletic Department, Weightman Fund, R. Tait McKenzie Associate, 1985." No manufacturer's mark.
- Object 8 Full size glass beer mug three inches in diameter at the base and six inches in height, titled "Pennsylvania Football 1977: The Year of the Wishbone, 5 - 4," with Varsity Football team season records for 1977. No manufacturer's mark.
- Object 9 Full size glass beer mug three and one quarter inches in diameter at the base and six inches in height, titled "Penn 1974, 6 - 2 - 1," with Varsity Football team season records for 1974. No manufacturer's mark.
- Object 10 Miniature glass beer mug three inches in diameter at the base and five inches in height, with transfer print of University of Pennsylvania's coat of arms. No manufacturer's mark. Not dated.

V. Baseball outfit

Box 4 (oversize)

The baseball outfit consists of three shirts, a pair of pants, a pair of shoes, one cap, two pairs of leggings, a baseball and the bag that was used to carry the outfit.

*Return to main page for this collection*



[University Archives](#) | [University of Pennsylvania](#)