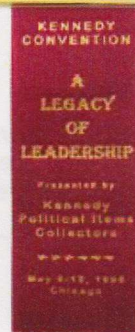
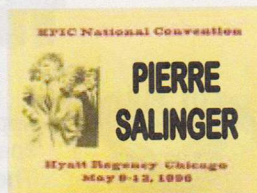




In 1987 the first "Kennedy Convention" was held in Boston, Massachusetts. The group was given royal treatment by the JFK Library, holding a catered dinner in the Library's atrium. The guest speaker was long-time Kennedy friend and White House Special Aide **Dave Powers** (left) who was also the curator of the museum at the JFK. The group met again in Boston in 1992 and 1995.



Wilson, and photographer **Jacques Lowe**. The convention also provided a private showing of the 1963 movie **"PT-109"**, starring Cliff Robertson, Ty Hardin, and Robert Culp. Following the Chicago Convention, Harvey Goldberg became the Director of KPIC and remained Editor of the newsletter. Chris Hearn remaining vice president.

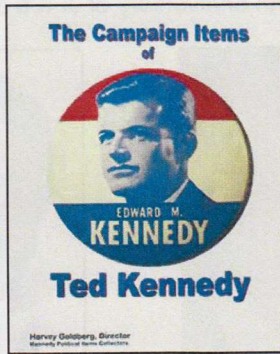
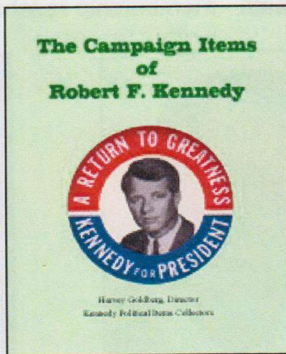
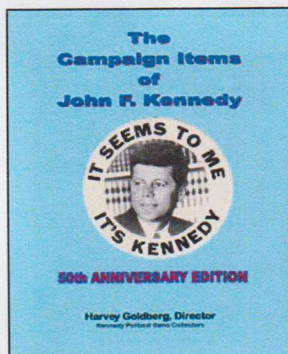


In 2000 KPIC held another landmark event: The **"Millennium Kennedy Exhibit"** in Hagerstown, Maryland. This was a combined display of two of the finest collections of Kennedy campaign memorabilia in the hobby - that of Chris Hearn and Harvey Goldberg (left). KPIC held a luncheon in conjunction with the exhibit. As one member noted, *"I've never seen so much Kennedy stuff in one place at the same time!"*

In 2003 KPIC lost one of its charter members and the person who had become the 'heart and soul' of the group - **Bonnie Gardner**. For so many years, she was the driving force behind the continuing success of the Kennedy Political Items Collectors. This had a great effect on many members; Most realized that the people in the organization were more important than the pins. Many of the members had become part of an extended family who shared more than just the

interest in collecting campaign materials. The words that came to mind were the same as those of Lyndon Johnson after November 22, 1963: **"Let Us Continue"**. Peter Maio took over as president and KPIC continued.

Continuing our goal of documenting as many known Kennedy campaign items as possible, three new reference books were published. The **Campaign Items of Ted Kennedy** (2009), the **JFK 50th Anniversary Catalog** (2010), and the **Campaign Items of Robert F. Kennedy** (2011). The trilogy pictured over 6,000 items of all types in full color.



Although these references picture a greater number of Kennedy campaign items than any other sources, they are still not complete. Completeness is not a real possibility. John F. Kennedy was inaugurated more than half a century ago; Ted Kennedy won his first term in the Senate in 1962 and RFK was elected to the Senate two years later. Yet previously unseen and "unlisted" campaign, related, and memorial items for the Kennedy brothers still turn up.

One of the growing problems has become that of fantasy items and collector involvement in making buttons and pins. Most collectors are

knowledgeable enough to recognize these new copies and creations but that may not hold true in years to come. Every attempt is made to identify these items and keep collectors informed about them. Remember that collectors are amateur historians - custodians of the artifacts of the past. Among the best advice a collector can follow is not to just accumulate large numbers of items, but also to learn the background and history of the items in your collection: Who, When, Where, and Why...

