Labour/Left Memorabilia, 1880-1980: A Photographic Representation

Karl Beveridge

Advocates of One Big Union, 1880-1925
Button and enamel pins of the One Big Union (c. 1919-1927), the Industrial Workers of the World (c. 1905-1920), and the Knights of Labor (c. 1880s). In the Knights of Labor pin SOMA refers to Secrecy, Obedience, and Mutual Assistance.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Engineers, Charity Lodge, St. Thomas, Ontario

Ribbon, the reverse of which was in black, ‘In Memorium,’ for use at funeral services of lodge members. In use from 1870s to World War I.
25th Session of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, May 1927
International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, Beaver Local 192, Thorold, Ontario
The mill where workers wearing this ribbon would have worked still exists today, and in 1999 workers occupied the factory to save it from being closed.
Longshoremen’s Union, 1878 & Marine Trades and Labour Federation, Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River & Atlantic Coast, July, August, September 1919
International Union of the United Brewery Workers of America (c. 1890s)
United Mine Workers of America, 8 Hours (c. 1890s)
Boot & Shoe Workers Union, Factory No. (c. 1890s on)
Cigar Makers International Union of America, with blue union label (c. 1890s on)
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, Ottawa meeting (c. 1930s-1950s)
Labour Day
Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, Division 113 and Toronto Railway Employees, Division 113, Labour Month, September 1919
Toronto Waiters Club, Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance, September 1913 & Civic Employees Union, Toronto Local 43, January 1921
Early Congress of Industrial Organization [CIO] Union buttons
Dues and agitational buttons from the mass production unions of the 1930s and 1940s.
Political Action
Labour support for James Simpson in Toronto mayoralty bid, 1930s, and 1940s Political Action Committee of the CIO.
United Automobile Worker pins, October 1941
Pins reflect a jurisdictional battle between the American Federation of Labor [AFL] and the CIO, between 1939-1941, when Homer Martin attempted to affiliate a faction of the union to the AFL.
Left Causes: May Day (Canadian-Soviet Trade and Friendship League) and the Spanish Civil War (Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion)
Internationalism: May Day and Bethune
Socialist Party of Canada Penant
Strike/Dues Pins

The shovel pin was issued during the United Steel Workers of America, Local 6500, strike against Inco, in Sudbury, 1979.
Race & Class: United Packinghouse Workers of America
The black and white hands of the handshake supposedly represent the integration of separate Locals for black and white workers which took place in 1947.
Union Support
A reflector for the back bumper of a car, dating from the 1920s or 1930s.