

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON STATE BUTTON SOCIETY

The first meeting of button collectors started with eight members in Seattle in January 1939. It was known at the Washington State Button Collectors. They formally changed their name to WASHINGTON STATE BUTTON SOCIETY in 1942.

The NATIONAL BUTTON SOCIETY was established in 1938.

At first they met in the home of one of members. Then moved on as the group grew in size to various hotels such as: The Mayflower, Ben Franklin and Roosevelt hotels. Several times they also met in different churches. Picnics in July were a tradition and going to the national shows across the United States. Later on going to the Idaho, Oregon, California and Nevada shows were on the list of "must sees".

Fredrick & Nelson asked the group to have a display to show in their auditorium in 1942. It then became another tradition every other year or so until Fredrick's closed its door forever in 1992. The Washington State Button Society (WSBS) had many quarterly meetings in the dining room at Fredricks as it was so centrally located for the many local clubs that had formed all over the state.

In the beginning years a yearly booklet was given to members. Later a newsletter was mailed on a quarterly basis. The first was called "The Clipper Ship News". Later became a quarterly WSBS Bulletin and is to this day. During the early years many great articles appeared in the 'Rotogravure' section of the Seattle Times. Many Washington members over the years have served on a National level including President.

Our Society has hosted two National Button Society Conventions in Tacoma in 1991 and 1998. WSBS hosts our own State convention show and sell up to present day usually each September.

The goal of the Society is to create an appreciation and interest in the study of buttons. And to encourage research, to promote educational exhibitions through annual shows and displays in our communities, and to preserve the art and history of buttons.