



Girl Scout History Society

News from Cultural Assets

Decorated Belgian Flour Sacks

As a person interested in general history, I always enjoy learning new things.

Recently, a woman came into the shop at Girl Scout Central in NYC and asked about decorated flour sacks in the GSUSA collection. She had a copy of a newspaper article that mentioned that the ambassador from Belgium gifted Girl Scouts and Lou Henry Hoover decorated flour sacks after WWI as a thank you for sending sacks of flour to Belgium during the war as part of food relief programs. I knew about two flour sacks in our collection but did not have any details about the people who decorated them. Based on the knowledge shared by our visitor from the virtual Belgian Flour Sack Museum, we were able to find similarly decorated flour sacks in their collection. The GSUSA Collection & Archive flour sacks may have been made by the same artist or in the same area of Belgium as the examples from the museum. I had no idea such a museum existed before this unexpected visitor came into the shop; it's always exciting to make new connections and be able to add to the larger Girl Scout story!

I am curious to know if any council collections contain decorated flour sacks.
Please email me if you do!

www.belgianfloursacks.com

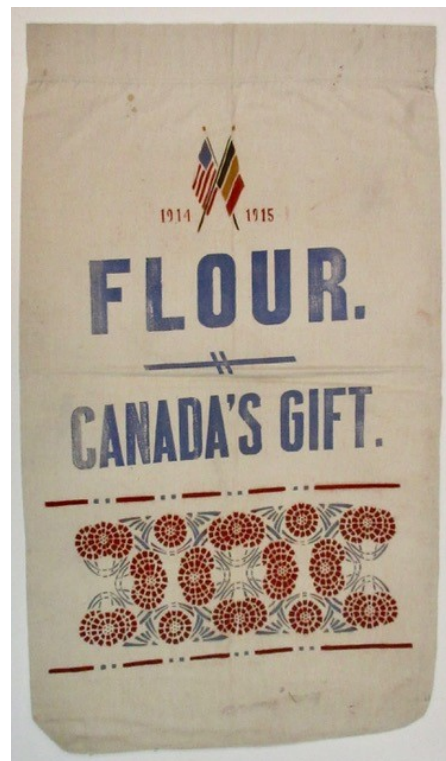
-Janine



Embroidery on flour sack given to Girl Scouts and Lou Henry Hoover as a thank you gift for sending sacks of flour to Belgium as part of the food relief program during WWI.



A similar embroidery style is on this flour sack from the virtual Belgian Flour Sack Museum.



This flour sack from the virtual



Second flour sack in GSUSA's Lou Henry Hoover collection. This one is painted and the text from the actual flour sack is visible.

Belgian Flour Sack Museum has a very similar flower design painted on it. Perhaps the same person made both.

Updates

The recording of the 7/9 virtual meeting can be found [HERE](#).

Our next virtual meeting will be October 8th at 4pm EST. The link to join the meeting and agenda will be sent a few days in advance.

Collection Highlight



When Juliette Gordon Low stepped down as president of Girl Scouts of the USA, she was given the title of Founder and her birthday was officially recognized as Founder's Day.

The proclamation is illuminated by hand, with decorative letters painted in gold, the Girl Scout Trefoil at the top, and a border of trefoil leaves and curling daisy flowers. It reads:

"Whereas we the National Executive Board of the Girl Scouts have been regretfully compelled to accept the resignation of our Founder and First President, Juliette Low, and inasmuch as we are deeply sensible of all that her courage, initiative and generosity have meant to the organization, be it therefore resolved that we take this opportunity of assuring her of our loving appreciation of the great work she has accomplished in laying the foundations of the Girl Scout movement in America, of our faithful intention to carry on the movement in accordance with her original inspiration, and of our unanimous decision to honor her name and memory, as long as the organization exists, in our National observance of her birthday, October 31st, as Our Founder's Day."

News from Members

"GSA Success" Handmade Patch

GS of Connecticut came across an interesting handmade patch recently and is looking for more information about it (pictured below). It is on a 1925 Khaki uniform from Wallingford, CT. If you have any information or leads about this item, please contact [Cheryl McGuff](#).



Looking for missing information in the era of digital catalogs? Kelsey from Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho Council has a great tip: **talk to the folks in your council retail stores**, especially if they have been on staff for a long time. They may have digital records they are willing to share!

Have a new exhibit opening? Have extra artifacts to donate to another council? Send your news to [Janine Napierkowski](#) for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please limit entries to 100 words or less.

Did someone forward you this email? Contact [Janine Napierkowski](#) to join the mailing list.



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