



**Jefferson County (Colorado). Treasurer  
Donald Couch Political Decanter Collection, 1956-1988**

Series #156

Processed by: Ronda Frazier  
Date Completed: June, 2010

Jefferson County Records Management & Archives  
3500 Illinois St., Suite 2350  
Golden, CO 80401  
(303) 271-8448  
E-mail: [archivist@Jeffco.us](mailto:archivist@Jeffco.us)  
Website: [www.jeffco.us/archives](http://www.jeffco.us/archives)

## **Overview of Records**

---

Creator:	Donald Couch, former Jefferson County Treasurer
Title:	Donald Couch Political Decanter Collection
Dates:	1956-1988
Series Number:	156
Quantity:	34 decanters (7 cubic ft. in boxes)
Arrangement:	None
Abstract:	Commemorative liquor decanters (most Jim Beam whiskey) in the shapes of elephants and donkeys representing the symbols of the American Republican and Democratic political parties.

## **Administrative Information**

---

Access Restrictions:	None
Use Restrictions:	Must keep on display when possible.
Preferred Citation:	Item Description; Jefferson County Treasurer, Donald Couch Political Decanter Collection, 1956-1988; Series #156; Jefferson County Records Management & Archives, Golden, Colorado.
Provenance:	Collected by Donald Couch, former Jefferson County Treasurer (1970-1989). Donated to the Treasurer's Office by his wife after his death. Transferred to the Archives in June, 2010.
Related Records:	None

## **History Note**

---

The Jim Beam Company, established 1795, has long been interested not only in the production of fine whiskey but also in the design and creation of artistic and attractive containers for their superb Beam Bourbon. In 1952 the first Specialty Bottles were created, marking a distinct change from conventional whiskey bottles. A glass Cocktail Shaker was designed in 1952, with the Christmas gift-giving public in mind. In 1957, the first of a long line of distinctive china Trophy bottles were issued - the colorful Fish Regal China decanter and the demure Duck.

During the succeeding years, in answer to the growing demand for these unusual bottles, Beam issued both china and glass decanters, each unique in conception and design. Some honored leading States of the Union, some Centennials of cities and events; leading sports events were distinguished by attractive decanters. Golf, horse racing, football, and tennis events were in turn, honored.

As demand for ceramic decanters grew, many companies and large retailers asked the Beam Company to create decanters specifically for them. These bottles become known as Customer Specialties. In 1955, the Jim Beam Company produced the first Executive decanter to commemorate its 160th birthday. Thereafter, an Executive decanter was issued each year, designed for the holiday season.

*(Jim Beam Decanter history taken from website: [www.Jimbeamclub.com](http://www.Jimbeamclub.com), accessed 6/29/2010)*

## **Scope and Content Note**

---

Collection consists of 34 whiskey and wine decanters honoring the American Republican and Democratic political parties in elephant and donkey figures. The Jim Beam whiskey decanters are the complete line of Beam's Political Decanter Series, commemorating each election year from 1956 to 1988. They are all genuine, handcrafted Regal China. The rest of the collection contains decanters created by Ski Country, Ezra Brooks, Hoffman Distilling Company, and Federal Distillers. There are also three sets of Italian wine decanters.

**Container List**

**Box**



Zona Di Marcialla Red Wine Decanters, Certaldo Italy. Grey elephant with top hat, blue bow-tie, bright yellow pants with brown suspenders, seated in brown chair on square pedestal. Blue/grey donkey with top hat, yellow bow-tie, grey pants, seated in brown chair on square white pedestal. Glazed porcelain, 12” high, undated (circa 1950s-1960s.)

1



Barsottini Vino Rosso Red Wine Decanters, Casa Vinicola Boccaccio, Italy. Orange donkey with sign around neck “Vote Democratic,” and green elephant, missing hats, 9” high, 1968.

1



Vino Rosso Red Wine Decanters, Casa Vento, Italy. Leather covered bottles. Donkey is black with red saddle and collar, tan reins, black tail, and red rhinestone eyes. Elephant is brown with gold chain around neck, and red rhinestone eyes. 14” high, undated.

1



“Campaign ‘76” Ezra Brooks Whiskey Decanters. 1976 Republican National Campaign elephant and Democratic National campaign donkey. Genuine Heritage China, 9¼” high, 1976.

2

Collection name plaque

“This Collection was donated to the citizens of Jefferson County in Memory of Donald E. Couch, Jefferson County Treasurer, 1970-1989”

2

**Container List**

**Box**



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters:  
“Drummers.” Republican elephant with “1988  
Republican Election” drum and Democrat donkey  
with “1988 Democratic Election” drum. Genuine  
Regal China, handcrafted, 12½” high, 1988. 2



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters:  
“Elephant - 1972 San Diego.” Republican  
elephant in San Diego Chargers uniform, from  
San Diego Republican Convention. Genuine  
Regal China, handcrafted, 9 ¾” high, 1972. 2



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters:  
“Football.” Republican elephant and Democrat  
donkey football players perched on top of large  
footballs. Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 10”  
high, 1972. 3



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters:  
“Clowns.” Republican elephant and Democrat  
donkey in clown suits holding Styrofoam hats.  
Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 12” high,  
1968. 3

**Container List**

**Box**



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: "Superman." Republican elephant dressed like Superman with large red "R" on his chest lifting the globe above his head. Democrat donkey with large red "D" on his chest. Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 11" high, 1980.

4



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: "Boxers." Republican elephant and Democrat donkey in boxer shorts, undershirts, black top hats, and boxing gloves. Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 12½" high, 1964.

4



Ski Country Political Whiskey Decanters, created by Yankee Doodle Dandies, Golden, Colorado. Full-size Republican elephant and Democrat donkey in 1776-1976 Bicentennial hats: "Republican National Convention, Kansas City, 1976" and "Democratic National Convention, NYC, 1976." 10" and 11" high, 1976.

5



Ski Country Political Whiskey Decanters, created by Yankee Doodle Dandies, Golden, Colorado. Mini Republican elephant and Democrat donkey in 1776-1976 Bicentennial hats: "Republican National Convention, Kansas City, 1976" and "Democratic National Convention, NYC, 1976." 4 ¼" high, 1976.

5

**Container List**

**Box**



Hoffman Distilling Company Decanters: “1980 Election.” Republican elephant and Democrat donkey in tuxedos and top hats. 10¼” and 11¾” high, 1980.

5



Federal Distillers Political Decanter. Republican elephant dressed in bright red, white, and blue Revolutionary era garb with red tricorn hat. “1776-1976” on base. Glazed porcelain, 12” high, 1976.

6



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: “Campaigners.” Democrat donkey in suit with vest, key chain, and string tie, holding sign “Wisconsin Democrats.” Republican elephant wearing suit with vest, key chain, and knotted tie, holding sign “Colorado Republicans.” Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 12” high, 1960.

6



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: “Drums.” Democrat donkey in Revolutionary triangular hat and Republican elephant bursting out of red, white, and blue 1976 drums. (Elephant missing hat.) Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 12” high, 1976.

6

**Container List**

**Box**



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: “Ashtrays.” Republican elephant and Democrat donkey heads lay flat with place to sit a glass and an area to function as an ashtray. Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 10” high, 1956.

7



Jim Beam Political Series Whiskey Decanters: “Computers.” Republican elephant and Democrat donkey on computer screens. Keyboards spell out “Republican National Campaign 1984” and “Democratic National Campaign 1984.” Genuine Regal China, handcrafted, 7” high, 1984.

7