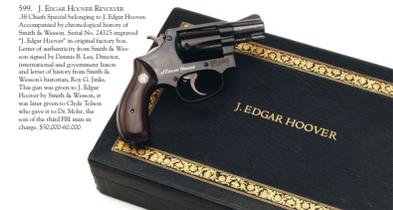




598. J. Edgar Hoover Raid Badge
J. Edgar Hoover's original FBI Raid Badge
of the mid 1930s, the same "raid"
one shown (acquired in 1985, the
signature was previously known as
"agent" the "Bureau of Investigation."
Authenticated by evidence of authentic-
ity: 1 28" H x 1 7" W \$50,000-60,000



599. J. EDGAR HOOVER REVOLVER
38 Caliber Special belonging to J. Edgar Hoover.
Authenticated by chronological history of
Smith & Wesson. Serial No. 2432 registered
"J. Edgar Hoover" in original factory box.
Letter of authentication from Smith & Wesson
signed by Thomas R. Lane, Director,
investigative and government liaison
and head of Smith & Wesson's
Wesson's histories for G. J. Jinks.
This gun was given to J. Edgar
Hoover by Smith & Wesson, it
was later given to Chief Clerk
who gave it to D. M. Mohr, the
son of the first FBI agent to
change \$50,000-60,000

Is This FBI Badge The Only One Of It's Kind In Existence?

October 6, 2013 - By retired FBI SA, Larry Wack
(rypublish@verizon.net)

(This is a draft suitable for distribution to others)

The pending issue under examination is whether there is a possibility that the pictured red/white FBI "raid badge" may be the *only sample or even the prototype* badge submitted to J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI by the L. G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Mass. This possibility is now based upon newly found documents by us dated 1935 in FBI files obtained under the FOIA.

The "colored" arrows on documents with typed notes are mine.

Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
March 6, 1935

HRC:BF

Similar description as auction raid badge

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

The Executive Conference considered the recommendations of the Special Agents in Charge with reference to certain personal identification material to be worn by the field employees when necessary in the conduct of raids. It was unanimously agreed that both some type of shield-badge and an arm band should be procured. It is observed that the S.A.C.'s favored a chrome-finished shield, about four inches long and three inches across, with the letters "U.S" prominently displayed in some distinctive color, and the remaining lettering on the shield to be similar to the present pocket badge.

It is recommended that this matter be referred to Mr. Baughman for the purpose of having certain diagrams prepared of shields and arm bands of an appropriate type, in order that the Executive Conference may have an opportunity to study the suggested form.

RECORDED 66-4151-45
JUL 27 1935
1 copy

Respectfully,
H. M. Clegg

JUN 20 1935
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FOULSON
BAUGHMAN
FOUR

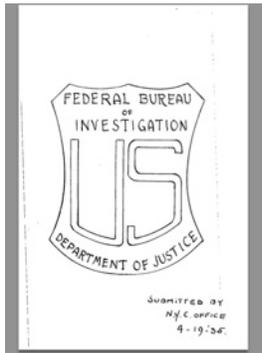
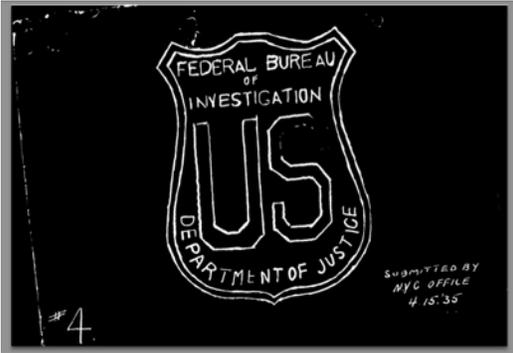
Please proceed & then
some have final recommendation
of Executive Committee.
A. C. N.

We do not have all the documents yet of those in file however descriptive information, sketches, and more indicate virtually exact design between the 1935 FBI raid badge and the red/white "auction badge" shown above which is taken from a page of the Julia auction occurring within the last few years.

Although too small to see, the above red/white badge shown has the number "1" on the rear of the badge. No manufacturer shown.

Some of the documents from the file are shown here which have immediate interest. Hoover had ordered 300 "raid badges," 4" x 3" chrome in color with red lacquer however the L. G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Mass. revealed to the Bureau that there were problems using the "red lettering" that was requested. It's unclear now if that lettering turned to "white." The Balfour rep had also told the Bureau the badge would be heavy and that nickel was more advisable than chrome. (Note the auction badge above is 3 7/8" x 3" almost

to the exact size requested by the FBI.)



The 1935 sketches of the “raid badge” desired by the Bureau are also shown with #4 (dark) badge being approved. Once again, notice the comparison with the “auction badge.”

These sketches were supplied by SAC Whitley of the New York Field Office however it’s unknown if he or someone else drew them. Whitley was probably

the contact person with L. G. Balfour.

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
May 30, 1935

TDQ:A

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: SHIELD-BADGE & ARM BAND.

Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schildt	.....
Mr. Starnes	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schildt	.....
Mr. Starnes	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....

The Executives' Conference considered the findings of the Special Agents in Charge Conference with regard to certain personal identification material to be worn by the field employees when necessary in the conduct of raids.

It was unanimously agreed that both some type of shield-badge and an arm band should be procured. The Special Agents in Charge favored a chrome-finished shield about 4" long and 3" across with the letters "U S" prominently displayed in some distinctive color, and the remaining lettering on the shield to be similar to the present pocket badge. The matter was referred to Mr. Baughman in order that he might have certain diagrams prepared of shields and arm bands of an appropriate type, in order that the matter might receive further consideration. There are attached hereto two drawings of sample shields numbers 3 and 4.

TWO ISSUES

Raid Badge

Armbands

Considering the shield, which will be about 4" from top to bottom and about 3" across, the Conference was of the opinion, with the exception of Mr. Coffey, that a shield, per drawing #4, of chrome-finish with the letters "U S" prominently displayed in red, should be procured.

Mr. Coffey voted for the shield per drawing #3, believing that the number appearing on the badge should appear on the face thereof instead of the reverse side as other numbers are now recorded.

The Conference next considered the question of an appropriate arm band, and was of the opinion that an arm band 3" wide, per drawing #4, should be prominently displayed on white cloth - the words "U S" being in red.

RECORDED

66-4151-48

Balfour Co. later told HQ that red letters was a problem

ordered 4/19/35

e. Nat.

There are clearly two issues being considered by the Bureau in 1935: 1) an appropriate “raid badge” which is obviously different from the regular gold Special Agent badge, and 2) the manufacture of armbands that are to look like the face of the “raid badge.” We do not have any additional information at this time, nor any drawings or photos, of the actual 1935 armband. It very well may resemble the white cloth armbands that were issued to agents *decades later*. The Bureau wanted 300 of those also.

I have spoken to Mr. Ken Lucas who owns one of the largest badge collections in the US. Mr. Lucas has advised me that he has never encountered a red/white badge as that depicted in the Julia auction catalog above.

On October 6, 2013, I spoke to the original owner of the red/white badge and Hoover .38 as pictured in the above Julia auction page. The owner identified both items as originally coming from FBI Asst. Director, John Mohr and his son, Richard (both now deceased). The badge shown *did NOT have any letter of*

authenticity to it when obtained from Richard Mohr, however John Mohr told this owner that the badge was kept by J. Edgar Hoover in his desk for years.

The original owner has advised that the badge and the Hoover .38 were sold approximately twenty years ago, and the current owner of either is unknown.

As of October 6, 2013, I am awaiting additional file documents on the FBI raid badge and armbands that were desired in 1935. These will take some months to obtain. I currently believe that after everything considered, there is a strong likelihood that after Hoover obtained the sample/prototype from L. G. Balfour, the Bureau changed its mind and canceled the order for 300. They may have opted for the armbands instead. This is yet to be seen; however the red/white FBI "auction badge" *shown above may be the original sample/prototype from the Balfour Company.*

This matter is being discussed with the Bureau's current Historian, Dr. John Fox, and others. To date, Dr. Fox has advised me that no "raid badges" as shown in the auction, OR the FBI files, exist within the FBI nor do the 1935 armbands. He is not familiar with having previously seen any of them.

Larry Wack is a retired Special Agent of the FBI, having served there approximately 28 years. He currently maintains a website dedicated to the history of the Bureau and those agents of the 1930s. His site is at: historicalgmen.squarespace.com