

# U.M.W.A. Badges

Mark Ballard

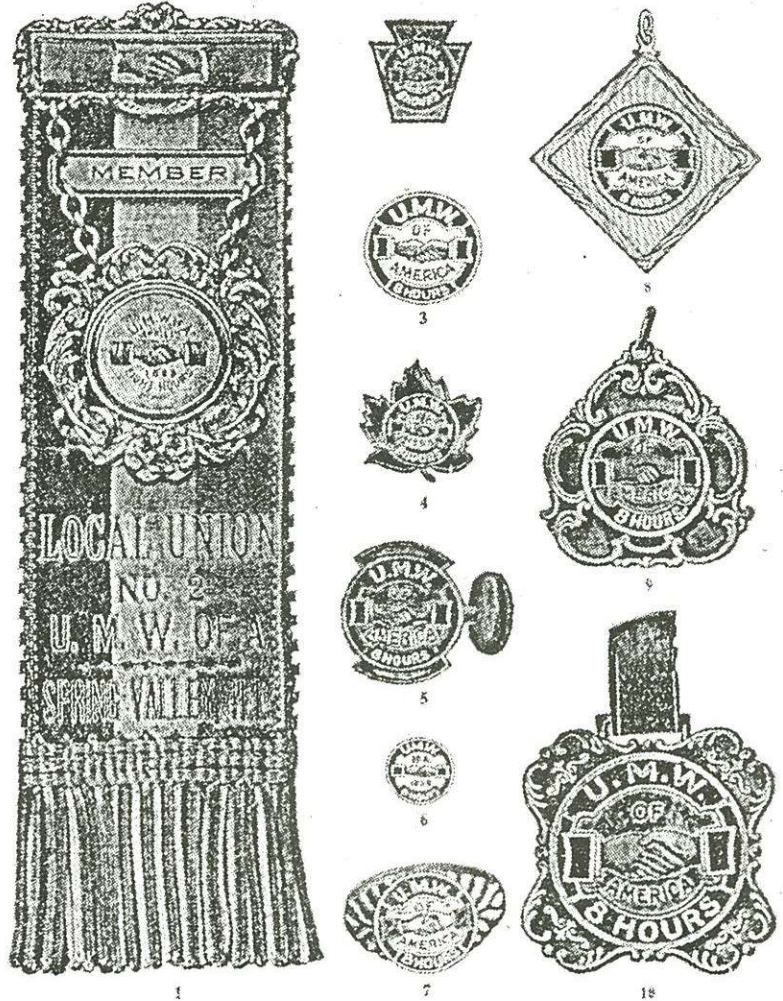
For those interested in collecting artifacts from the United Mine Workers of America, there is a vast array of items available: badges, ribbons, oil wick lamps, posters, advertisements, letters...even ash trays!

While no item can be considered common, the easiest by far to acquire are the convention badges. On the other hand, local union badges are fairly difficult to find as the number of union members at an individual mine was not great. Officers' badges are also rare since an entire mining district would have only one overseeing officer for a particular job. I have collected and studied U.M.W.A. badges for over 15 years.

Flea markets and shops are fine places to pick up these items, but the old miners are your best bet. At U.M.W.A. conventions today money clips, key chains, watch fobs, pins and photos are still distributed as they were years ago.

I have been asked several times what the numbers on the local union badges signify. Does a lower number indicate an older badge? This does not seem to be the case. In any state there can be several local unions, old and new. The mine I worked at (Orient #4) was sunk in December, 1951. Our local number is 9878. A mine sunk here in southern Illinois two years ago was given number 70.

## Mine Workers' Emblem Jewelry



1. Reversible Badge. Ribbon trimmed in gold or silver braid and fringe to match. Metal parts furnished in gilt, silver or copper oxidized finish.
  2. Reversible design for Pennsylvania. Finished in fine grade white hard enamel, official emblem in colors. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  3. 5/8-inch Regulation Round Emblem. Gold Plate, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  4. Maple Leaf (design for Canada). Made in the beautiful colors of the maple leaf. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  5. Cuff Buttons. Gold plated quality, especially designed for Mine Workers. Per pair, 50 cents; \$5.00 per dozen.
  6. 5/8-inch Regulation Round Emblem. 10 Karat Solid Gold, 50 cents each; \$5.00 per dozen.
  7. Rings. 10 Karat Solid Gold, Emblem enameled, each \$2.00.
  8. Charms. Gold filled, French hard enamel, new design, each \$1.25.
  9. Charms. Rolled Gold and French hard enamel, each \$1.00; 10 Karat Solid Gold and French hard enamel, each \$5.00.
  10. Fobs. Special design—Medallion Gold finish with French hard enamel emblem, same colors as cuff button. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
- Badges and emblems are strictly UNION MADE. Send orders with remittance in full to

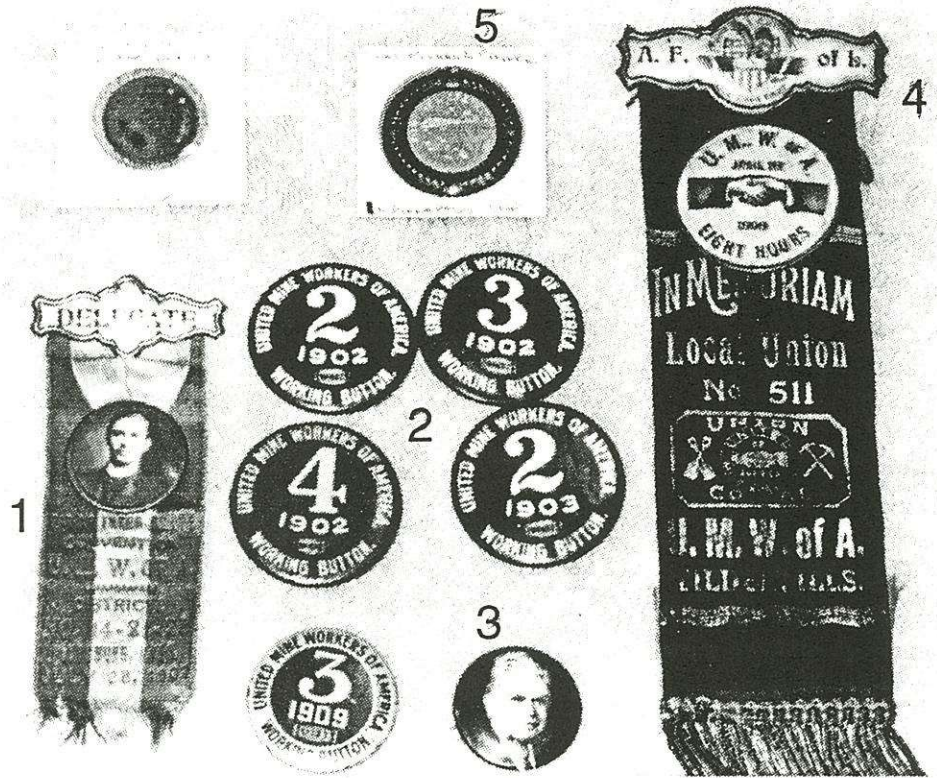
One badge.....	\$1.50	50 or more .....	\$9.65 ept
2 or more.....	1.25 ept	100 " " .....	.62 "
5 " " .....	.82 "	250 " " .....	.69 "
12 " " .....	.71 "	500 " " .....	.53 "
25 " " .....	.56 "		



Many badges have a black side. At funerals, union members would wear the black side out. There was a \$1.00 fine for not attending a funeral.

An advertisement in a 1916 U.M.W.A. Journal (previous page) shows prices for various badges. A local shop in southern Illinois, The Herrin News, made and took orders for these items. Several of the badges in my collection are from The Herrin News.

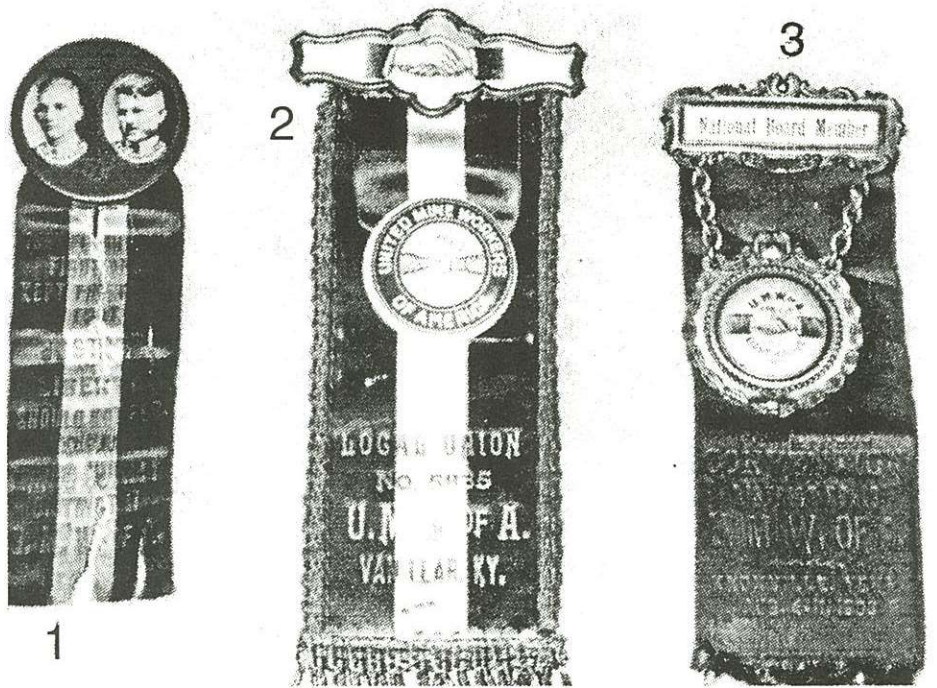
If one of our readers needs help identifying a badge they have found, I would be happy to assist. I am also cataloging badges from all states and labor organizations. Your help would be appreciated.



1: John Mitchell, 1902, Pittsburg, KS. First Interstate Convention.  
 2: #2 for February, # 3 for March, #4 for April, etc. 3: John L. Lewis photo. 4: U.M.W.A. Local 511, Tilden, IL. Note the A.F. of L. logo at the top. 5: Indiana convention (no date),

Listed below are district numbers and their corresponding states:

#	State
2	PA
4	PA
5	OH
6	OH
11	IN
12	IL
14	KS
15	CO
17	WV
18	Canada
20	AL
22	UT
23	Madisonville, KY
26	Canada
28	VA
29	WV
30	WV



1. Sid Hatfield & Ed Chambers, Mingo County, WV District 17.  
 2. Van Lear, KY 5835 Local Union. This is Loretta Lynn's father's local.  
 3. National Board Member Badge. U.M.W.A., Knoxville, TN 1903.