

## Class Activity: Analyzing Archival Objects

Find an object in any of the pre-selected boxes that compels you. Answer the questions below in 2-3 sentences each and consider how you might use these same guiding questions when looking at your chosen archival objects—whether material or digital—for your final paper.

1. What kind of object are you looking at? What is different about touching it and being in the same space as the object as compared to finding a scan of a document or a photo of an object?
2. What is the historical and/or cultural context you can glean from this object? Is there any indication of a historical period, a cultural milieu, a specific time and place?
3. What kind of evidence can you extract from this material? List 2-3 facts you can state with certainty by looking at this material.

\*Ask questions like: Who wrote this document? What group were they affiliated with, if any? What form of media is this? Why is that important? If the material is art or some other object without text, what is *its* purpose? Who would have seen this?

4. Based on this evidence, what can you argue? If you were writing a paper about a subject related to this material, how would it be useful to you?