Annotated Bibliography

**Primary Sources:**

**Archives:**


The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division collection of Thomas Nast images is the largest online resource for Nast’s work and related materials. This archive was invaluable in providing high resolution primary source illustrations for all sections of our exhibit. It also includes some contemporary cartoons inspired by Nast’s work.

*Thomas Nast Papers*. Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

The Nast material available at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum Reading Room includes all of Nast’s *Harper’s Weekly* illustrations from 1871, the height of the campaign against the Tweed Ring, as well as contemporary takes on his work such as a play on “Who Stole the People’s Money?” created by Jim Borgman during the Carter Administration.

*Thomas Nast Papers, 1860-1902*. Gilded Age Collection, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, Ohio.

This collection includes correspondence, photographs, personal journals from Nast’s travel in Europe, the Nast family scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and published works from various magazines as well as numerous original sketches. Of particular interest were the sketches in which Nast seemed to be developing ideas for famous cartoons such as “The ‘Brains.’”

**Books:**


Paine’s biography, based on interviews with Nast and originally published shortly after Nast’s death, is an essential resource. It provided a wealth of information about Nast’s life and work as well as a number of useful quotes illustrating Nast’s influence and legacy. In addition, the introduction by Morton Keller helped put both Nast’s work and Paine’s biography in context.
Images and Artifacts:


This bleak photograph of Civil War dead provided a powerful visual for our “Historical Context” section.


This illustration of the traditional jolly Santa Claus is featured in the “Enduring Symbols” subsection of our “Legacy” section as one of Nast’s iconic images.


We used this image in our supplemental video to accompany Mr. Culbertson’s discussion of Nast’s Civil War illustrations.


This exhibit provided a rare opportunity to view many of Nast’s lesser known works such as children’s book illustrations. Also on display were items from the collection like the silver canteen presented to Nast by the Union League Club after the Civil War, “The Lightning Speed of Honesty” featuring Uncle Sam, and several self-portraits.


We used this image to illustrate urban life during the Gilded Age in our “Historical Context” section.


We used this photograph beneath our exhibit title to introduce viewers to Nast.


This photograph of “Boss” Tweed is incorporated in our “Crusading Against Corruption” section as a point of reference for Nast’s caricatures of the Tammany ringleader.
Letters:


This letter of introduction from Harper's Weekly editor George Curtis praises the way Nast's illustrations informed the public about the Civil War and about why it was necessary. We quoted the letter in our “Championing Republican Values” section to illustrate the national impact of Nast's pictorial reporting.

Newspaper and Magazine Articles:


The article describes the proceedings of the 1864 Chicago Convention. The Convention’s purpose was to achieve peace during the Civil War by striking a compromise between the Union and the Confederacy. The talks did not move very far or come to any solid conclusions or deals.


William "Boss" Tweed's obituary provides information on Tweed's death, his political career, his work in the Tammany Hall political machine, his arrest, escape from jail, and his second arrest. Tweed's obituary provided us with information on Nast's main target in his crusade against the Tammany Hall political machine.


This article recounts the ironic and amusing story of Tweed's capture in Spain. In addition, it expresses the opinion that, despite the fact that Tweed for many years was one of the most powerful men in New York and despite the seriousness of his crimes, he ultimately was rendered too farcical to be threatening. This source informed our section on Nast's campaign against Tammany Hall corruption.


The article talks about George Jones, the co-founder and publisher of the New York Times. It details how Tweed (via Connolly) offered Jones a five hundred thousand dollar
bribe to stop publishing damning evidence and how Jones rejected this appeal. This was an interesting primary source account of one dimension of the Tweed gang’s corruption.


This wry front page article compares the purported costs of carpeting for the new county courthouse with an estimate prepared by a reputable firm for the same work. It is interesting to note that the cost billed to the City and paid out of municipal funds was almost thirty times the $12,000 estimate (which could be considered extravagant). This serves as yet another example of the Ring’s power and corrupt practices.


This pamphlet, published by the *Times* in both English and German versions, provides a comprehensive itemized list of the expenses charged to the City by the Ring from 1869 through 1871. It served as yet another reminder of the magnitude of the Tweed gang’s thefts, with a grand total that would equal about $220 million today.


This article explains one of Tammany Hall’s mechanisms for fraudulent voting and how it came to be discovered. The article reproduces an order signed by Tweed which would allow any Irishman presenting it to the Superior Court to become a naturalized citizen and a registered Democrat – in other words, a loyal Tammany voter.


This source provides a brief introductory paragraph followed by the full text of Steffens’ “Tweed Days in St. Louis,” originally published in *McClure’s Magazine* in 1902. In characterizing political corruption in St. Louis as “Tweed Days,” Steffens demonstrates the extent to which Tweed has become synonymous with fraud in city government. The article also supports our argument that Nast’s work influenced the movement of muckraking journalism.

This opinion piece provides insight into the public view of Nast in his own time, according to *The New York Times*. It describes the popularity of Nast's drawings among people of all walks of life, the power of his caricatures, and his vast influence on public opinion. It provided a strong quote for our section on Nast's legacy.


This article highlights Nast’s influence on voters in the 1868 elections, calling Nast’s political cartoons “the most effective election documents ever published in America.”


This article from a Honolulu newspaper was most valuable for its recounting of a conversation between Nast and Theodore Roosevelt during Roosevelt’s time as Police Commissioner. Evidently when Nast congratulated Roosevelt on his reform efforts, Roosevelt replied that he had learned politics from Nast’s cartoons in *Harper’s Weekly*.

Print.

This source is an article by Nast himself on the topic of caricatures. Nast elaborates on the art form in general and the process he went through in caricaturing Tweed specifically. It provided an interesting primary source perspective.


This article, written April 14, 1902 but published in an Idaho Territory newspaper a few weeks after Nast’s death in Ecuador, discusses the history and future of caricature. Nast’s patriotic tone is evident here.


This editorial gives dramatic descriptions of Tweed’s “insatiable gang” and the extent of its power. We used a quote from this article in our “Crusading Against Corruption” section.


Nast’s obituary, originally published in the *New York Times* in December 1902, provides good information about Nast’s life and major accomplishments. The article helped us to understand Nast’s impact and legacy.


This article provided information about one of the ways the "Tammany Ring" was able to steal money, stealing tax money from citizens. It details the people involved in the scandal, and how it was carried out. This article was useful in building our knowledge of the Tammany Hall political machine.


This brief article summarizes a tribute to Nast by the Union League in recognition of his devotion to the preservation of the Union during the Civil War. It informed our “Championing Republican Values” section.

This editorial accompanied the front page exposé of Tammany Ring abuses published the same day. We used a quote from this article in our “Crusading Against Corruption” section to highlight fraudulent spending of taxpayer money; the amount that one carpenter supposedly was paid in one month would be 6.6 million in today’s dollars.


This *New York Times* front page exposé provides shocking details of the extent of the Tammany Ring’s fraudulent bookkeeping. It documents astronomical sums paid to tradesmen and businesses for phantom goods and services. This was the first public proof of Tammany’s crimes.


This article discusses Mayor Hall’s admission that he is in possession of stolen funds, his efforts to deny all knowledge of how this money was stolen, and his attempt to shift the blame to the Republicans while holding onto the money.


The article details the guilty confessions of the conspirators behind the Tammany Ring. It states that Connolly, Hall, and Sweeny are confident in their power and feel as if the charges brought against them will be dropped and the scandal will be forgotten.


The article describes Nast's career and how he got into the business of cartooning and working for *Harper's Weekly*. It also chronicles his work as a correspondent in England covering the Heenan-Sayers prizefight and in Italy covering Garibaldi’s struggle to his country from Austrian and Spanish control.

The article describes Nast's early life and how he became a cartoonist. The article goes into more depth about some of his more famous cartoons such as “Compromise with the South.”


This article from *Harper's Weekly* describes what the magazine thinks of its illustrator, Thomas Nast. The article summarizes Nast's work up to 1871, and has a number of good quotes.


This satirical modification of the Westminster Catechism is a jibe by Mark Twain against the greed and corruption of the Gilded Age. It gives a first-hand view of how the era was seen by contemporaries, and specifically names Tweed as a prophet to the almighty dollar. We used a quote from this piece to illustrate Tammany Hall corruption.


This article was most useful for its headlines trumpeting the crimes of the Tweed Ring. These headlines are visually appealing and are a great addition to our section on Nast’s campaign against Tammany Hall.


This article details Tweed's acquisition of the New-York Printing Company which he supplied with government printing contracts, thereby funneling money from the City treasury into his own pocket. The article thus documents another of Tweed's audacious maneuvers to get rich at the public's expense.

This article in the *Nation* provides good information about Tweed’s arrest in Spain. It also provides information about who was influential in the takedown of the Tweed Ring, as well as what the arrest could mean for American politics.


This editorial provides a clear description of the process by which the Ring defrauded the public in making payments to contractors. Essentially, contractors were told that they would not be paid unless they padded their bills to an obscene degree, leaving a large surplus for Tweed and his associates.

**Secondary Sources:**

**Articles:**


Although this article focuses on Nast's paintings more than his cartoons, it provided an excellent summary of Nast's impact and influence on American public life in the nineteenth century.


This article, written one hundred years after Nast’s birth, summarizes the cartoonist’s life and work, focusing on Nast’s ability to demonize political opponents as well as the lasting symbols he created.


This page from the World War I era *Day Book* discusses changes in the depiction of Uncle Sam from that featured in *Punch* in 1844 to one by Robert William Satterfield in 1917. It is interesting to note that the incarnations of Uncle Sam prior to Nast’s iteration
are unrecognizable to modern eyes. Nast was the first to portray Uncle Sam with a star-emblazoned jacket and Lincolnesque facial hair.


This unpublished manuscript by editorial cartoonist and Nast aficionado Draper Hill discusses Nast’s life and work and evaluates the contributions of other Nast researchers.


This article, useful for background information, discussed social, political, and cultural influences on Nast and his work. It assisted us with writing the “Historical Context” section of our board.


This New York Times web article provided information on Nast's Santa Claus. It gave insight on how Nast created this interpretation of Santa, what inspired it, and the enduring popularity of this illustration.


This opinion piece reflects on the ability of cartoons as a medium to inspire intense reactions – even, as in the case of the recent Charlie Hebdo attacks, to the point of violence. We were interested in the fact that the author, himself a political cartoonist, specifically highlights Nast’s Tweed series as the last time art had any significant impact on American politics.


This article gave us useful information on Nast's legal cartoons, including those featuring Boss Tweed's two trials. It also included several effective images.

This web page provided valuable background on the major events of the Gilded Age and informed our “Historical Context” section.


This brief biography was a useful springboard for beginning our research into Nast’s life and work.


This article details Mark Twain’s disgust with and criticism of outrageous crimes of the Tammany Ring. It provides the full text of and explains contemporary references in Twain’s “Revised Catechism,” a work which satirizes various corrupt politicians of Gilded Age America. We were interested to learn that Twain and Nast were friends.

**Books:**


Ackerman’s biography provided an interesting new perspective for us by focusing on Tweed’s side of the story. Most interesting was the fact that, having made a deal for his freedom in exchange for a full confession, Tweed was betrayed and left to die in prison. This portrayal made Tweed a much more sympathetic character than we saw through Nast’s pencil.


This book, written by *HarpWeek* electronic publisher John Adler and editorial cartoonist Draper Hill, gives an excellent record of Nast’s Tammany cartoons and the people
caricatured in them. It provides unusual detail in both text and carefully catalogued images and helped us fully understand this graphic crusade.


*The Tiger* provides a detailed history of the Tammany Hall political machine. It gave us another perspective on the Ring’s extensive political power and the multiple reform efforts required to dismantle it.


This book was most useful for its discussion of Nast’s use of classical allusions and Shakespearean references.


This book was useful for the chapter “The Crusade Against the Tweed Ring” which provides an in-depth record of the events surrounding the Ring’s rise to power and eventual downfall as well as the reform efforts that ensued. This gave us another perspective for our “Crusading Against Corruption” section.


We used this book for basic research into the time period for our topic, focusing on the chapter, “Urban Growth, National Scandal and Economic Panic: 1871-1873.” The information it provided helped us understand the historical context of Nast’s work.


This source was especially useful in our discussion of Nast’s legacy, as it is filled with modern spins on Nast cartoons. Each cartoonist also describes Nast’s impact on his/her own work. We drew several quotes for our “Legacy” section from this publication and incorporated the book in our exhibit as an interactive element.

*Them Damned Pictures* is a history of political cartooning in America that illustrates the ways that political cartoons have shaped politics and public opinion. The book includes a chapter outlining Nast’s work and influence. We used a quote from Fischer on the power of Nast’s Tweed series for our “Crusading Against Corruption” section.


Halloran’s biography provides a detailed analysis of Nast’s life. This gave an idea of how his early life impacted his political views as well as how he used his cartoons to influence public opinion during his career.


This book gives good information about the events that Thomas Nast influenced, and also puts those events into context with other famous political cartoons throughout history. It also provides many high-quality reproductions of Nast's cartoons.


This book includes a profile of Nast and his work in their historical context. It also provides examples of modern takes on some of his most iconic cartoons and images, including Paul Conrad’s “Affixing Blame for Our Economic Problems” which we used in the “Legacy” section of our exhibit as an example of a contemporary version of Nast’s “Who Stole the People’s Money?”


This important source by historian Morton Keller contains a large number of Nast images organized by theme, with chapters discussing each theme. Keller provides both biographical information and analyses of Nast's work and its impact.

This book reflects on the persuasive power and lasting impact of political cartoons and includes a discussion of Nast’s contributions to the field. It alerted us to the 1988 Supreme Court decision in *Hustler Magazine, Inc. v. Falwell* to uphold protection for “slashing and one-sided” parodies and caricatures under the First Amendment. Notably, Chief Justice Rehnquist’s opinion refers specifically to Nast’s “graphic vendetta” against Tweed and his gang.


This succinct biography gave us helpful information about Nast’s life, both public and private. It also included a good chronology from which we quoted to create our timeline.


This recent collection of biographical essays places Nast in the company of reformers such as Jacob Riis and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The chapter “Thomas Nast: Muckraking Cartoonist” details various dimensions of Tammany Hall corruption and Nast’s pictorial exposé of the Tweed Ring’s abuses.


This book gave an outline about the use of Thomas Nast's political cartoons both at the end of and shortly after the American Civil War.


*The Lines are Drawn* shows various political cartoons from the Civil War era and the various opinions of the time. Included is some of Nast’s body of work that deals with Civil War politics.


This book, authored by Thomas Nast’s grandson, is filled with large format reproductions of Nast’s cartoons, organized thematically, with detailed discussions of each theme. In
addition to learning from the text, we used scanned versions of certain images not available through the Library of Congress.


This book, originally published in 1967 and referenced by many Nast scholars, provided detailed and easily readable commentaries on Nast’s greatest accomplishments along with reproductions of his art.

**Images:**


We chose this cartoon as an example of how succeeding generations of cartoonists have used Nast’s imagery in their own work. In this cartoon Herblock borrows the money bag used as Tweed’s head in Nast’s “The ‘Brains’” and uses it in place of Richard Nixon’s head, while showing Nixon proclaiming his innocence from behind an enormous pile of money.


This cartoon, based on Nast’s 1871 “What Are You Laughing At? To the Victor Belong the Spoils,” juxtaposes a rendering of a battered Boss Tweed seated amid the ruins of Tammany Hall with one of disgraced County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora amid the ruins of Cuyahoga County government. The cartoon provides a powerful example of how editorial cartoonists continue to crusade against corruption. We used an enlarged version of it as a focal point in the “Social Commentary” part of our “Legacy” section.


This emblematic recruiting poster shows another artist’s conception of Uncle Sam, one which has become embedded in the popular consciousness. We used this image alongside a Nast Uncle Sam in the “Enduring Symbols” subsection of our “Legacy” section.
Interviews:

Adler, John. Telephone interview. 21 Nov. 2014.

_HarpWeek_ publisher and Nast expert John Adler provided detailed information about Nast, from his life story to his legacy. Mr. Adler recommended some additional Thomas Nast resources in order to further our research.

Culbertson, Thomas J. Personal interview. 6 Dec. 2014.

This videotaped interview with the Director Emeritus of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center gave us helpful information about Nast’s personal life, significant works, and impact. We used segments of the interview in the supplemental video we created for our exhibit.

Darcy, Jeff. Personal interview. 11 Nov. 2014.

This interview with Northeast Ohio Media Group editorial cartoonist Jeff Darcy provided a contemporary journalist's perspective on Nast's influence on the field. One of the points he emphasized was how illustrated magazines such as _Harper’s Weekly_ had a powerful impact on public opinion in an era when there were few other sources of news, and how Nast capitalized on this influence with his persuasive editorial cartoons. We used videotaped segments of the interview in our supplemental video. Mr. Darcy also shared two of his cartoons with us, one of which we used to enhance our “Legacy” section.

Eger, Jeffrey. Telephone interview. 12 Dec. 2014.

This long and detail-rich interview with the former editor of the _Journal of the Thomas Nast Society_ provided much useful information and deepened our understanding of our topic.

Hyman, Ryan. Personal interview. 2 Apr. 2015.

This interview took place at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in Morristown, New Jersey, with the curator of the largest collection of Nast works anywhere in the world. The interview was particularly useful in shedding light on lesser known aspects of Nast’s career such as his historical paintings and children’s book illustrations. Mr. Hyman also provided an important perspective on Nast’s achievements and lasting impact. We used segments from the interview in our supplemental video.