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Guide to the Peter Newell Collection

YCAL MSS 63



by Sandra Markham, Brooke McManus

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Associated Materials	4
Peter Newell (1862-1924)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Drawings (acquired 1994), 1895-1909	5
Bangs, John Kendrick	5
Newell, Peter	5
Stockton, Frank	5
Stuart, Ruth McEnery	6
Unknown author	6
Series II: Addition (2004), undated	7
Series III: Addition (2005), 1914	8
Series IV: Addition (2006), undated	9
Series V: Addition (2007), 1894-1902	10
Series VI: Addition (2008), 1893-1899	11
Series VII: Addition (2009), 1895-1913, undated	12
Series VIII: Addition (2010), circa 1896, circa 1901	13
Series IX: Addition (2011), 1892, 1913	14
Series X: Addition (2012), undated	15
Series XI: Addition (2013), 1891-1911, undated	16
Series XII: Addition (2014), undated	17
Series XIII: Addition (2015), 1878-1912, undated	18
Series XIV: Addition (2016), 1886-1893, undated	19
Series XV: Addition (2017), circa 1900-1920	20
Series XVI: Addition (2018), 1897, circa 1909	21
Series XVII: Addition (2019), 1908	22
Selected Search Terms	23

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 63

CREATOR: Newell, Peter, 1862-1924

TITLE: Peter Newell collection

DATES: 1878-circa 1920

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.26 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains 73 drawings by illustrator Peter Newell which were acquired by the library, either by purchase or gift, primarily through funds left to the library by Newell's grandson Alfred Z. Baker (1907-1987). They include illustrations created for the Harper and Brothers firm and their periodicals Harper's Weekly, Harper's Monthly, and Harper's Bazar; illustrations created for other publishers; examples of Newell's personal artwork, such as a self-portrait and portraits of his wife and son; and caricatures of African Americans.

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Requesting Instructions

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To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Drawings in Series I were purchased from James Cummins on the Alfred Z. Baker Fund; Series II were purchased from Heritage Book Shop, Inc. on the Jockey Hollow Fund; Series III were purchased from

Jo Ann Reisler, Ltd. on the Alfred Z. Baker, Jr. Fund; Series IV was the gift of Adele Zachrisson; Series V through Series XVII were purchased from James Arsenault & Company on the Alfred Z. Baker Fund.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Peter Newell Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Peter Newell Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Associated Materials

The Peter Newell Family Papers (YCAL MSS 62) contains personal and business correspondence, drawings, personal papers, photographs, and family material related to the artist and his career.

Peter Newell (1862-1924)

Peter Newell, an illustrator and author, was born in Illinois and lived in and around New York City for most of his life. Extensive information on Newell and his career appears in the finding aid for the Peter Newell Family Papers (YCAL MSS 62).

Scope and Contents

The collection contains 73 drawings by the artist Peter Newell which were acquired by the library, either by purchase or gift, primarily through funds left to the library by Newell's grandson Alfred Z. Baker (1907-1987). They include illustrations created for the Harper and Brothers firm and their periodicals *Harper's Weekly*, *Harper's Monthly* and *Harper's Bazar*; illustrations created for other publishers; examples of Newell's personal artwork such as a self-portrait, and portraits of his wife and son; and caricatures of African Americans.

Arrangement

Organized into seventeen series: I. Drawings, 1895-1909. II. 2004 Addition, undated. III. 2005 Addition, 1914. IV. 2006 Addition, undated. V. 2007 Addition, 1894-1902. VI. 2008 Addition, 1893-1899. VII. 2009 Addition, 1895-1913, undated. VIII. 2010 Addition, circa 1896, circa 1901. IX. 2011 Addition, 1892, 1913. X. 2012 Addition, undated. XI. 2013 Addition, 1891-1911, undated. XII. 2014 Addition, undated. XIII. 2015 Addition, 1878-1912, undated. XIV. 2016 Addition, 1886-1893, undated. XV. 2017 Addition, circa 1900-1920. XVI. 2018 Addition, 1897, circa 1909. XVII. 2019 Addition, 1908.

Collection Contents

Series I: Drawings (acquired 1994), 1895-1909

0.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

The series consists of seventeen drawings commissioned by Harper and Brothers, over half of which were made to accompany two serialized stories by John Kendrick Bangs, "A House-boat on the Styx" and "The Pursuit of the House-Boat," which were later published as novels. Another set of drawings was made for the Frank Stockton serial story, "The Great Stone of Sardis," which was also published in book form. Two other illustrations for serialized stories are included, as is a single example of a Peter Newell comic. The drawings are arranged by the author of the story illustrated, with the single comic by Newell filed under his authorship. Page numbers following the title of a drawing refer to the location of the illustration as it appeared in the novel.

Bangs, John Kendrick

"A House-boat on the Styx"

Published in *Harper's Weekly* and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1896)

b. 1, f. 1	"Lord Bacon, accompanied by Charon, appeared" (p. 24)	1895
b. 1, f. 2	"Doctor Johnson in a rage" (p. 48)	1895
b. 1, f. 3	"The melancholy Dane appeared" (p. 52)	1895
b. 1, f. 4	"Ejecting a frenzied poet from the card-room" (p. 58)	1895
b. 1, f. 5	"The house-committee discuss the poets" (p. 64)	1895
b. 1, f. 6	"Boy, is Adam in the club-house today?" (p. 80)	1895

"The Pursuit of the House-boat"

Published in *Harper's Weekly* and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1897)

b. 2, f. 7	"Every bloomin' million was represented by a certified check, an' payable in London" (p. 84)	1897
b. 2, f. 8	"Queen Elizabeth desires an axe and one hour of her olden power" (p. 90)	1897
b. 2, f. 9	"The committee on treachery is ready to report" (p. 102)	1897
b. 2, f. 10	"Shem in the lookout" (p. 128)	1897
b. 2, f. 11	"Kidd's companions endeavoring to restore evaporated portions of his anatomy with a steam-atomizer" (p. 154)	1897

Newell, Peter

b. 2, f. 12	"Some former residents of New York, while revisiting the glimpses of the moon on New-Year's Eve, meet with a surprise on the Bowery" for <i>Harper's Monthly</i>	1901 Jan
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Stockton, Frank

Stockton, Frank (continued)

"The Great Stone of Sardis"

Published in *Harper's Monthly* and afterward as a novel by Harper and Brothers (1898)

b. 3, f. 13	"Under the great skylight" (p. 36)	1897
b. 3, f. 14	"There's whales in this polar sea" (p. 110)	1897
b. 3, f. 15	"They ceased operations" (p. 154)	1897

Stuart, Ruth McEnery

"The Haunted Photograph"

Published in *Harper's Bazar* and afterward as a novel by The Century Company (1911)

b. 3, f. 16	"She succumbed, green as the Ganges, into her own egg-basket" (p. 18)	1909
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Unknown author

"The End of the Flying-Dutchman"

b. 3, f. 17	"Portrait of my grand-father"	undated
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Series II: Addition (2004), undated*2 Folders*

The series consists of sketches for two holiday-themed cartoon drawings which were likely created for one of the Harper Brothers' magazines.

b. 4, f. 18	[Cupid and a frog], ink and watercolor on paper mounted on paperboard Cupid, in gray overcoat, waves at frog in water; inscribed "To Mrs. William Ostler, faithfully yours, Peter Newell"	undated
b. 4, f. 19	[Young George Washington], ink and pencil on paper mounted on card stock The image shows a boy, presumably representing a young George Washington, standing next to a fallen tree and an axe, facing his father. Includes caption: "'Oh, father dear, I cannot tell - I cannot tell a lie. It--' 'Then, George, my son, if I were you, indeed, I wouldn't try it.'"	undated

Series III: Addition (2005), 1914*2 Folders*

The series consists of two drawings, one humorous cartoon and one that was presented as a mechanical toy used to illustrate a story.

b. 4, f. 20	"A Class in Geography," ink on paper mounted on paperboard A bearded elf instructing four elf children in a geography lesson, using the patterns on the side of a Holstein cow to represent a map.	undated
b. 4, f. 21	"The pumpkin opened and closed its eyes in a mysterious way," from the series "Peter Newell's Movies" in <i>The Delineator</i> , ink and gouache on paper mounted on paperboard Number 2 of 4 images published in October 1914 (p. 33); see YCAL MSS 62, box 57, folders 937-938 for drawings 1 and 4, and box 242, folder 3329 for tearsheet.	1914

Series IV: Addition (2006), undated

The series consists of a single drawing, a self-portrait showing the artist in bust profile. It is inscribed to Miss Emily Dawes, the maternal great-aunt of the donor.

b. 4, f. 22

Self-portrait, ink and watercolor on paper

undated

Series V: Addition (2007), 1894-1902*5 Folders*

The series consists of five drawings: two have a Christmas theme; one is a page from a calendar designed by Newell; one is an illustrated rhyme; and the fifth is a portrait of the artist's son Clen.

b. 4, f. 23	"I wish you 'Merry Xmas'," pencil, ink, and watercolor on paperboard Image shows a small boy posited between two Christmas trees, accompanied by a verse.	undated
b. 4, f. 24	"Little Mary Christmas," pencil, ink, and watercolor on paperboard Image shows a doll or girl posited in a wreath, accompanied by a verse.	undated
b. 4, f. 25	Clendenon Sheaf Newell (1892-1918), pencil and watercolor on paper mounted on paperboard	1894 Jun 21
b. 4, f. 26	"July," from his calendar for 1903, ink and watercolor on paperboard See YCAL MSS 62, box 120, folders 1535-1536, for the preliminary pencil sketch and finished drawing for the calendar page	1902
b. 4, f. 27	"A Young Hero," ink on paper mounted on paperboard Image shows a small boy and a snake; includes caption: "Brave Lambeth Jones encountered, by the trolley in the lane, A dreadful wriggling live wire, and he killed it with his cane."	1900

Series VI: Addition (2008), 1893-1899*7 Folders*

The series consists of seven drawings, five of which were cartoons produced for one of the Harper magazines, and on their versos bear an ownership label (likely related to exhibition loans) of Lillie Harper (1881-1941), a New York sculptor who was the great-granddaughter of James Harper, founder of Harper Brothers publishing company. The sixth was published in *Collier's Weekly*, in a series of humorous cartoons about of the Spanish-American War, and the seventh is a portrait of Newell's wife Leona.

b. 5, f. 28	"A Christmas Allegory," ink, watercolor, and china white on paper mounted on paperboard Published in <i>Harper's Magazine</i> (January 1894) and in <i>Peter Newell's Pictures and Rhymes</i> (1899); formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: "Spake Phoebe Jones in clearest tones, 'Permit me, Sir and Madame--I represent a Christmas Eve, and Will-a Christmas Adam!'"	1893
b. 5, f. 29	[The Duck and the stork], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard Published in <i>Harper's Round Table</i> ; formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: "The Duck.- 'Say, are you going to hang up your stocking on Christmas Eve?' The Stork.- 'Naw, I want something more than a tooth-pick!'"	1895
b. 5, f. 30	[Grasshopper], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard Possibly published in <i>Harper's Round Table</i> ; formerly owned by Lillie Harper.	1893
b. 5, f. 31	Leona Dow Newell (1861-1954), ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard	1896
b. 5, f. 32	"A Suggestion that Admiral Sampson Should Use the 'Vesuvius' with Discretion," gouache on paperboard Caricature of Admiral William T. Sampson, published in <i>Collier's Weekly</i> (July 2, 1898) as number 4 in Newell's series "The Humorous Side of the War."	1898
b. 5, f. 33	["An Unreasonable Complaint"], ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard Published in <i>Harper's Round Table</i> and <i>Peter Newell's Pictures and Rhymes</i> (1899); formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: "The Sheep.-'Whew! But it is hot!' The Boy.- 'I should think it would be. You haven't taken off your woolens yet.'"	1896
b. 5, f. 34	"Washington Maketh Love," ink and china white on paper mounted on paperboard Possibly published in <i>Harper's Bazar</i> ; formerly owned by Lillie Harper. Includes caption: "In vain have foemen shot at me with rifle ball and dart. But, oh, your glances, Martha, dear, have pierced me to the heart!"	1899

Series VII: Addition (2009), 1895-1913, undated*6 Folders*

This series consists of sketches to illustrate unidentified magazine stories and several illustrations for works by John Kendrick Bangs.

b. 5, f. 35	[Queen watches as cat runs under throne], pencil on paper mounted on paperboard	undated
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 36	"A bachelor's Christmas," ink, wash, and gouache on paper, mounted on paperboard Subtitled "by John Kendrick Bangs, decorations by Peter Newell." Illustration published in December 1911 issue of <i>Harper's Bazar</i> .	[1911]
b. 7, f. 48	[Group of soldiers, one saluting], ink, wash, and gouache on paperboard Illustration of a soldier saluting another while two soldiers look on from a doorway, for an unidentified story in <i>Collier's Weekly</i> . Stamped "Copyright 1901 by P. F. Collier & Son."	[18]98, circa 1901
b. 7, f. 49	"A little black sheep," ink, wash, and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration of a woman driving a carriage, with a man seated next to her, for an unidentified story in a Harper's magazine. Manuscript caption: "'Arabella,' I said, 'Will you kindly tell us about Ba---?'" Stamped "Copyright 1909 by Harper & Brothers."	circa 1909
b. 7, f. 50	"Charon discovers a strange looking craft," ink, wash, and gouache on paper, mounted on paperboard Illustration from John Kendrick Bangs's <i>A House-Boat on the Styx</i> . With manuscript production notes.	1895
b. 7, f. 51	"Two hearts and a lover's knot," pen, ink, and wash drawing Illustration of two women and two men.	1913

Series VIII: Addition (2010), circa 1896, circa 1901*2 Folders*

This series contains one illustration for *The Pursuit of the House-boat* by John Kendrick Bangs, and one illustration for *Mother Goose's Menagerie* by Carolyn Wells.

b. 7, f. 52	[King Solomon], ink, watercolor, and gouache on paper mounted on board Illustration for John Kendrick Bangs's <i>The Pursuit of the House-boat</i> .	circa 1896
b. 7, f. 53	[Mother Goose with Tim and Tilly], ink, watercolor, and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration for <i>Mother Goose's Menagerie</i> by Carolyn Wells. Stamped "Copyright 1901 by Noyes, Platt & Co."	circa 1901

Series IX: Addition (2011), 1892, 1913*2 Folders*

This series contains racist cartoons of African Americans in a social situation, and an illustration for a story titled "President and Passenger."

b. 7, f. 54	[Two cartoons mocking African American social interactions], pen and ink on paper Illustrations of a man introducing his sister to a proprietor of hats. Caption of first cartoon: "Mistah Washin'ton, I mek you 'quainted wid my sistah, Miss Budy Cooper." Caption of second cartoon: "Mr. Washington, bowing low. 'Happy t' meet you, Miss Coopah!"	1892
b. 7, f. 55	"President and passenger," ink and gouache on illustration board Illustration for the story "President and Passenger" by Samuel Hopkins, published in <i>Collier's Weekly</i> .	1913

Series X: Addition (2012), undated*2 Folders*

This series contains an illustration of a man breaking dinnerware in front of a seated man and woman, and a comic strip depicting two children riding in a cart drawn by a billy goat.

b. 7, f. 56	Untitled / "Loosening the strings," ink and gouache on illustration board	undated
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b. 6 (Oversize), f. 37	[Willy and the billy goat cart], comic strip, pen, ink and colored pencil on paper	undated
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Series XI: Addition (2013), 1891–1911, undated*7 Folders*

This series includes several illustrations for Lewis Carroll's poem *The Hunting of the Snark*, as well as artwork depicting Christmas and fantasy themes.

b. 7, f. 57	"Fairyland," oil on board Salmagundi Club auction label on verso.	undated
b. 7, f. 58	"They doom to pass in solitude the hours, writing acrostic ballads," ink and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration for Lewis Carroll's <i>The Hunting of the Snark</i> .	circa 1903
b. 7, f. 59	"The dwarfs discover little Snow Drop," ink and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration for <i>Favorite Fairy Tales</i> .	circa 1907
b. 7, f. 60	"Rest your bones, ye wrinkled crones, the kettle sings, the firelight dances," ink and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration for Lewis Carroll's <i>The Hunting of the Snark</i> .	circa 1903
b. 7, f. 61	[Christmas fairy with elf], ink and gouache on illustration board	1911
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 38	[Man in top hat speaking to a clerk], pen and ink on paper Stamp of Benjamin West Society, ms. "883", at lower left.	1891
b. 7, f. 62	"Imitation ocean intimacies," ink and gouache on paper mounted to board Illustration of two men and a woman seated on the deck of an ocean liner, with the woman holding the hand of one man. Manuscript caption: "She returned the look and took my hand in hers."	1908

Series XII: Addition (2014), undated

1 Folder

This series consists of one drawing of a boy dressed as a Pilgrim, speaking to an older man.

b. 7, f. 63

[Pilgrim boy], pen and ink drawing on paperboard

undated

Series XIII: Addition (2015), 1878–1912, undated*6 Folders*

This series consists of various illustrations for magazines, and a poster advertising *Topsys & Turveys*, a children's book by Newell.

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 39	"An unnecessary question," ink and crayon on paper Illustration of a man standing at a ticket booth for a hot air balloon ride. A sign to his left, partially obscured at the bottom, reads "This balloon ascends every 30 minutes to an altitude of 10000 feet above the surface of the earth view mag... and unset..." Another sign reads "This way to the balloon," with a hand pointing to the right. Stamped "Harper & Brothers."	1899
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 40	"Burglars!" ink and crayon on paperboard Illustration of a thief being startled by a wind-up toy. Stamped "Harper & Brothers."	1899
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 41	"Five o'clock tea," watercolor on paper mounted on paperboard Illustration of a woman taking tea, faced by a cloud of steam in the shape of a man's head. Used as the cover of the November 5, 1905 issue of the <i>Sunday Magazine of the Sunday Record-Herald</i> .	1905
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 42	"Not strange," ink, pencil, and wash on paperboard Illustration of a man holding a pitcher in the rain, with the manuscript caption: "'I git good measure,' said Mrs. Jones, 'but, I declair, the milk Henry brought me yisterday mornin' was more'n half water.'"	1896
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 43	"Pettigrew's genius extinguisher," ink, wash, and gouache on paper Illustration of a man spraying another man in the eye with an extinguisher, and a man in the background standing in front of an overturned basket on fire. Manuscript caption: "The poet dodged and stuttered." Stamped "Harper & Brothers."	1912
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 44	<i>Topsys & Turveys</i> poster Color illustration advertising Newell's children's book. Stamped "Armstrong & Co. Lith. Boston."	circa 1893
b. 8	[Organ grinder and admirer], pencil sketch Illustration of a woman sitting on steps holding a basket and listening to a man play the organ, sketched on front free end paper of the school textbook <i>New Elementary Algebra</i> (1878).	1878, undated

Series XIV: Addition (2016), 1886-1893, undated*5 Folders*

This series features cartoons with racist portrayals of African American women, men, and children in various situations.

b. 9 (Oversize), f. 64	"He drank it," two pen and ink illustrations on paper Illustrations of a man and dog in front of a water pump. Manuscript caption for panel one, partially obscured: "... dat pail 'bout full? Ruddel col' backin' up ter dis ... drenchin' sto'm." Manuscript caption for panel two: "Git out, yo'pup, yo! Heah I been pumpin ha'f hour, anyo' drinkin' it up fas'er it come."	1886
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 65	"A burdensome facility," pen and ink on paper Illustration of a woman and man carrying a bucket of water between them, suspended by a log. Manuscript caption: "Pony, quit yo' bearin' down on dat en! Meks de baskit heavyeh'n when I keeried it all 'lone."	undated
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 66	"Tropical spider," two pen and ink illustrations on paper Illustration of man seated on a bench with a cat at his feet, while a boy hanging out of a window lowers a spider on the man's head. Manuscript caption for panel one: "Hey! Dat a spidah ticklin' my for'd?" Manuscript caption for panel two: "(He grabbs) 'Sodom 'n Gomorr, wot a monstious spidah - er - ah he'p ah he'p."	1886
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 67	"Taking after his oldest boy," pen and ink on paper Illustration of two men talking, with a separate drawing of a tall boy in the right hand corner. Manuscript caption on the verso: "Johnson, who do you take after in height, anyhow? W'y I do'an know l'ma suah. Haint none of my folks tall 'cept dat oldes' boy of mine an' reckon I mus' tek arter him."	1887
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 45	"The Johnson family in Cairo Street," pencil, watercolor, and gouache mounted on paperboard Illustration of a man and a woman riding a camel, with a boy hanging on the camel's tail and two girls following behind on foot. With two manuscript captions, one of which is partially obscured. Caption one: "Mr. Johnson -- 'Clariah, whah's Petah.'" Caption two: "Mrs. Johnson -- 'Taggin' on behin' ...'"	1893

Series XV: Addition (2017), circa 1900-1920

1 Folder

This series consists of one untitled painting of a winter scene with a draft horse pulling a man on a sleigh past a house.

b. 6 (Oversize), f. [Winter scene], gouache on illustration board
46

circa 1900-1920

Series XVI: Addition (2018), 1897, circa 1909

2 Folders

This series consists of racist cartoons of two African American men discussing Thanksgiving, and a painting of a farmyard.

b. 9 (Oversize), f. "Bowling to the powers that be," ink and wash drawing 1897

68

Illustration of two Black men in conversation. Manuscript caption one: "What, not qwan ter keep Thanksgivin'? Don' you know de President ob dese United States has made a proclamation to dat effect?" Manuscript caption two: "Sho-o? is dat so? Wal, I s'pose I's a law abidin' citizen."

b. 9 (Oversize), f. [Painting of a farmyard scene in late autumn], gouache and watercolor on paper circa 1909

69

Series XVII: Addition (2019), 1908

1 Folder

This series consists of one illustration depicting Baby New Year and Father Time for the cover of *Harper's Magazine*.

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 47 "The phantom and the real," pen and ink and gouache on paper affixed to illustration board 1908
Illustration depicting Baby New Year and Father Time to the left and the right of a longcase clock showing midnight on January 1, 1909. Used for the December 26, 1908 issue of *Harper's Weekly*.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African Americans -- Caricatures and cartoons
Caricatures and cartoons
Children -- Pictorial works
Christmas -- Caricatures and cartoons
Magazine illustration -- United States
Portraits
Self-portraits
Spanish-American War, 1898 -- Caricatures and cartoons

Corporate Body

Harper & Brothers

Genres / Formats

Cartoons (humorous images)
Illustrations (layout features)
Paintings (visual works)
Watercolors (paintings) -- United States

Occupations

Illustrators -- United States -- 19th century
Illustrators -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922 (House-boat on the Styx)
Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922 (Pursuit of the house-boat)
Harper, Lillie Hyde, 1881-1941 -- Ownership
Newell, Clendenon Sheaf, 1892-1918 -- Portraits
Newell, Leona Dow Ashcraft, 1861-1954 -- Portraits
Newell, Peter, 1862-1924
Newell, Peter, 1862-1924 -- Portraits
Sampson, William Thomas, 1840-1902 -- Caricatures and cartoons
Stockton, Frank R., 1834-1902 (Great stone of Sardis)
Washington, Augustine, approximately 1694-1743 -- Caricatures and cartoons
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Caricatures and cartoons