

# Guide to the Thomas Nast Collection

AOB 62



Compiled by Jae Rossman

2008

Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu

<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections  
Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu  
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

**CALL NUMBER:** AOB 62

**CREATOR:** Nast, Thomas, 1840-1902

**TITLE:** Thomas Nast Collection

**DATES:** 1860-1905

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Thomas Nast Collection documents satirical political illustrations drawn by Nast and published in newspapers and other serial publications in the late 19th century. The publications represented include *Harper's Weekly*, the *New York Illustrated News*, and the *Evening Post*.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0062>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.aob.0062>.

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Thomas Nast Collection was housed in the former Arts of the Book Collection until its transfer to the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library in 2008.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## Preferred Citation

Thomas Nast Collection, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Thomas Nast was born in Bavaria in 1840. He and his family emigrated to the United States, settling in New York, when Nast was six. A childhood penchant for drawing led to some formal training in the arts. Nast's career as an illustrator and political satirist began at the age of 15, working for *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly Magazine*.

Nast enjoyed much success and notoriety during his long tenure as a cartoonist for *Harper's Weekly*, from 1862 to 1886. He lampooned the South during the Civil War, earning praise from Abraham Lincoln. A series of Nast's cartoons from 1869 to 1871 led to the break-up of a ring of corrupt New York politicians and conviction of its leader, William Marcy "Boss" Tweed. Nast also invented the Democratic and Republican party symbols – the donkey and the elephant, respectively – and can be credited with shaping the visual traditions of Uncle Sam, Columbia, and Santa Claus.

Source: Edward Bryant, "Nast, Thomas," in *Grove Art Online*. Oxford Art Online. Accessed 23 Nov. 2010, <http://www.oxfordartonline.com/subscriber/article/grove/art/T061093>.

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## Scope and Contents

The Thomas Nast Collection documents satirical political illustrations drawn by Nast and published in newspapers and other serial publications in the late 19th century. The publications represented include *Harper's Weekly*, the *New York Illustrated News*, and the *Evening Post*.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by publication.

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## Collection Contents

### Illustrations

b. 1	<i>Harper's Weekly</i>	1863-1886
b. 1	<i>The Phunny Phellow</i>	1865 1869
b. 1	<i>Time</i>	1899
b. 1	Browning, King & Co's <i>Illustrated Monthly</i>	1899
b. 1	"Lincoln Entering Richmond," <i>Harper's Weekly</i>	undated
b. 1	<i>The Cartoon</i>	1888
b. 1	<i>The Daily Examiner</i> , San Francisco	1889
b. 1	<i>Once a Week</i> , New York	1893
b. 1	<i>The New York Herald</i> , New York	1895
b. 1	<i>The Evening Post</i> , New York	1888
b. 1	<i>The New York Illustrated News</i> , New York	1860
b. 1	<i>The Weekly Graphic for Heart and Home</i> , New York	1888
b. 1	<i>The Washington Post</i> , Washington D.C.	1905
b. 1	<i>The Sunday Inter Ocean</i>	1892-1893
b. 1	<i>La Nacion</i>	1902
b. 1	Unidentified manuscript diagram	undated
b. 1	Keepsake posters of illustrations 8 Items	circa 1895
b. 1	<i>The Daily Graphic</i>	1888

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## **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.

### **Genres / Formats**

Political cartoons