### The Liberator 1918 - 1924

2 page wide, center of issue political cartoons [Introduction and Contents]

### **INTRODUCTION:**

There were 78 issues of The Liberator printed in the years 1918 thru 1924. 73 of them have two page wide political cartoons printed across the 2 page wide sheet in the center of the issue.

This is a collection of digital scans of those cartoons.

### What about the other 5 issues?

The following three issues simply didn't treat the center two pages in any way special: May 1918 (v1n03), Oct 1920 (v1n08), and Nov 1920 (v3n10).

June 1918 (v1n04) has a two page wide set of sketches of members of The Masses trial jury, with text. But these are illustrations of individuals, not political cartoons.

September 1918 (v1n07) has a two page wide piece of art by Hugo Gellert. BUT... It's NOT a political cartoon.

As my mission here was to present two page side The Liberator POLITICAL CARTOONS, the material in the center of the above five issues was excluded from this compilation.

### Two special cases among the cartoons included:

July 1919 (v2n07) p26-27 is somewhat unusual in that, while it has a cartoon that goes across the center of those pages, it also has a column of text at the left hand side of the two open pages. All other two page cartoons in The Liberator bear as text ONLY a caption, NOT a multi-line column containing an article.

Sept 1922 (v5n09) consists of two facing pages which contain four cartoons by Russell. None of the four cross over the center line between the two pages, and in fact are sedately placed, one each of the four quadrants of the two page wide surface area. However, I found it in my heart to stretch my definition of the mission (these WERE, after all, political cartoons AND they were on the two page wide center page area), and include them in this compilation.

#### Why and How were these scans made?

### Why:

The 73 two page wide scans presented here were made as part of the Riazanov Library digital archive project's work making a complete, relatively high resolution (400 to 1200 dpi) archive of the contents of all pages of The Liberator (all issues), now complete and available on Marxists.org:

#### http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/culture/pubs/liberator/

I decided it would be convenient to have certain aspects of that archive available extracted into a single, easily-scanned file. I first made a single file with all the color covers in it. This project, presenting all the 2 page wide center political cartoons, is next. After this, I plan to make one or more compilation files of this sort presenting my own favorite other (other than these 2 page wide) political cartoons (and possibly also including some non-political art) from the pages of the liberator.

I personally have a special fondness for the 2 page wide political cartoons of The Liberator. Additionally, I've noticed other institutions providing digital representations of similar material (such as Tamiment Library's scans of The Masses, which also bear center 2 page wide art and political cartoons) tended to be presented "torn in half", was two separate sequential pages in a pdf file. This struck me as a poorly-considered decision in such presentations, and frankly as a desecration of the art involved. In archiving The Liberator I went to some lengths to present the two page wide cartoons as they obviously intended to be viewed, as a single page.

### How:

[This part may be a bit technical in places.]

Scans were made mostly using single bit black and white scanning technique, at 400 or 600 dpi (occasionally 1200 dpi). To achieve "restoration" of the image from the often unevenly brown and brittle paper, a scanning technique was chosen that only renders what was originally present when these cartoons were drawn and first printed: white paper and black ink. All scans were made with an Epson GT 20000 tabloid size "document grade" scanner, with a max optical resoution of 600 dpi (and a "half-step mode" permitting a kind of expansion of that to 1200 dpi in the horizontal direction, if one desired). Part way thru this project, I discovered the substantial value of turning on the "red dropout" function in the Epson scaning software (an option during BW and gray scale scanning), which tended to filter out the brown background of the more aged and decrepit paper.

To get a good exposure using single bit BW, especially in the case of charcoal sketches (line drawings were relatively easy to capture at high quality) a lot of care had to be put into choosing the threshold level of the scan. Often I'd make two or three different scans using different thresholds, then compare the results (both on the screen and when printed on a 1200 dpi laser printer) to the original, and pick what I considered the best rendition. At times I'd compare parts of the scan magnified many fold on the screen with parts of the original viewed thru a 10x triplet magnifier.

Single bit scanning has the advantages in this situation of producing very high resolution images in relatively tiny size files, and also of producing very crisp, "punchy", high contrast images. To be sure, similar results can be achieved using 8 bit gray scale if one manipulates the brightness and contrast appropriately, but never quite the amount of dramatic rendition or reduction of files size. The problem is that the virtue of single bit BW is also its vice: The high contrast one gets sometimes is inappropriate for the material being scanned, and can prevent as true as rendition as one would like. Mostly I was able to address this using great care in choosing the threshold, tho sometimes I'd give up and choose a contrast-boosted gray scale scan. Single bit scanning also is near totally unforgiving when it comes to any attempt to tune it up after the fact. Unlike gray scale scanning, you really can't much at all "tweak" a single bit BW scan using a photo editor. With much of the type of material I was dealing with here (text and line drawings in particular) this was not a problem at all. With charcoal sketches and the very occasional use of a kind of half tone to render gray in a few images, this MOSTLY wasn't a problem, but sometimes was, and in such cases at times I resorted to gray scale scans.

All issues of The Liberator were disassembled into individual pages. From those where the paper was not too decomposed I was able to obtain the single two page wide piece of paper that constituted the two page wide cartoon and scan that, simply and directly. I often (in order to keep total time expenditure in control, for I was in the course of the project personally meticulously scanning over 4000 pages) I'd accomplish restoration of holes left by staples or damage to the page by simply placing over the back of the page, where the holes were, black, white, or speckled black and white paper to patch the hole. Occasionally I did resort to post processing in a photo editor, but this was rare, and such manipulations were extremely minor.

In about half of the cases of these scans, the paper was so brown, brittle, and generally decrepit that the mere act of opening the copy of The Liberator up caused the halves of the two page wide cartoon to separate into two separate pages. In such instances I would tack the two separated sheets together using bits of the sticky part of post-it notes, sometimes with the already weak, designed to be removable adhesive further weakened by sticking and un-sticking it several times to the desk and/or other sheets of paper. This resulted in an adhesive sufficiently (barely!) strong to hold two pages precisely positioned, and achieve this very quickly, yet also allowed me to remove the sticky bits after the scan was done, EVEN when the sticky bits were stuck to some of the most brown, brittle edges of this high acid, 95 year old, decrepit brown paper.

I would also use very firm pressure on the pages when scanning via the scanning lid (sometimes with stacks of paper directly over the pages being scanned). This tended to either eliminate or at least minimize the development of a vertical line between the two pages in the scan.

All such artifacts of the junction of separate pages COULD have been edited out using a photo editor. But at 15 to 30 minutes or so to do this in each instance, the added cost in time would have been considerable. I had to draw the line somewhere. So while I did touch up a few vertical lines and other artifacts of the scanning circumstances using post-processing, in most cases I left them in, running out of obsessive steam, and left the (simple, if tedious) clean up of such images as an exercise for others.

[It is (in my experience scanning over 50,000 brown, brittle documents... often of as big as broadsheet page size) a commonly-believed myth among librarians working in special collections... often held on pure faith in the absence of an iota of actual experience on their part... that firm pressure on a brown, brittle, decrepit document will inevitably damage it. Associated with this is the conviction among such that the "right" way to scan such documents is with an overhead scanner, and without pressure on the paper. This is nearly 100% false. It is >extremely< rare for pressure ... even substantial pressure... to cause any damage to the document. [Those rare instances tend to be nearly entirely predictable: wash-boarded wrinkled brittle documents that resulted from deadly combination of aging of high acid paper WITH extensive water damage.] Firm and substantial pressure on the page is often CRITICAL in getting a totally flat, high-quality scan. Not uncommonly, without firm pressure of the flat bed scanner lid on the document, one gets quite visible waviness in the scan.]

About half of the scans here benefit from about a half hour or so of editing out artifiact. For the most part, this consisted of removing shadows of the junction of the two pages, and shadows of damage (staple holes, ragged edges, deep fold in the center). I left the original scans in the main Liberator files, should anyone want to see exactly what pixels are different between the restored scans here and the straight from the scanner scans in the main Liberator files. I am quite confident anyone foolish enough to waste their time making such a comparison will find for all intents and purposes no compromise of the authenticity of the scans presented here, and just better realize that conscientious and non-intrusive restoration was provided. About half of the images in this file are unaltered, and exactly the same as the image the scanner fed to the computer at the time the scan was originally made. In by far the majority of instances of these (and all other Liberator) scans I scanned directly to a .pdf file. Those scans not needing or getting restoration included those from the 1924 issues, which were printed on robust paper, and from the occasional unusual case where I was fortunate enough to obtain an issue from the period when MOST issues now consist of fragile, brittle, brown decrepit paper that happened (by virtue no doubt of how it had been stored over the last 95 years) happened to have paper in pristine condition.

### **CONTENTS:** Liberator 2 page Cartoon file

Numbers given are the page number, as supplied under each thumbnail when on activates the "thumbnails" feature on Acrobat reader.

Although 78 issues of The Liberator were printed, only 73 of them have a center 2 page wide political cartoon. Three lack any

The following three issues simply didn't treat the center two pages in any way special: May 1918 (v1n03), Oct 1920 (v1n08), and Nov 1920 (v3n10).

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BR - Boardman Robinson AY - Art young RM - Robert Minor FE - Fred Ellis MB - Maurice Becker HG - Hugo Gellert WG - William Gropper CW - Clive Weed RU - Russel DB - Don Brown

#### 1918

- 01 v1n01 Mar An Interruption BR
- 02 v1n02 Apr Good Night AY
- 03 v1n05 Jul Boys, I Can't Hardly Recognize You AY
- 04 v1n06 Aug The International Labor Situation BR
- 05 v1n08 Oct The Third Degree in the Middle West BR
- 06 v1n09 Nov The Mollycoddles' Union AY
- 07 v1n10 Dec You Too BR

- 08 v2n01 Jan Family of Nations AY
- 09 v2n02 Feb Holding the Fort AY
- 10 v2n03 Mar That Peace Conference AY
- 11 v2n04 Apr Our Elder Statesmen Investigating the Bolsheviki BR
- 12 v2n05 May Labor and the Peace Conference BR
- 13 v2n06 Jun Not Biting AY
- 14 v2n07 Jul I know what this Bolshevism means, Bill- it means us! CW
- 15 v2n08 Aug Soviet Russia BR
- 16 v2n09 Sep The International Situation BR
- 17 v2n10 Oct Wilson: "My fellow-citizens, it is only necessary for Capital and Labor to recognize their common interests." BR
- 18 v2n11 Dec The Cossack AY

### 19 v3n01 Jan Operator: "Trouble with you people is you want the earth." Miner: "Trouble with you is, you've got it." - CW

- 20 v3n02 Feb Checkmate Gentlemen BR
- 21 v3n03 Mar The East Side Jew That Conquered Europe RM [Trotsky]
- 22 v3n04 Apr Spring Comes to Russia Ru
- 23 v3n05 May Ireland RM
- 24 v3n06 Jun [Rail Union Bureaucrat to Union Worker] CW High Salaried Union Official:
  "Boys, if you don't move this train, we can't ride either." Railroad Worker: "Sure, that's the idea"
- 25 v3n07 Jul Too Much Light AY
- 26 v3n08 Aug No More Stops MB
- 27 v3n09 Sep Retreat from Russia BR
- 28 v3n12 Dec Outlook for 1921 AY

#### 1921

- 29 v4n01 Jan Save Christian Armenia RM
- 30 v4n02 Feb "Nello profundo inferno gli riceve..." Dante -RM [the capitalists aren't even wanted in hell]
- 31 v4n03 Mar Capitalism Investigates Itself BM
- 32 v4n04 Apr The Second Coming BR
- 33 v4n05 May Back to the Galleys RM
- 34 v4n06 Jun Back to the Good Old Times BR
- 35 v4n07 Jul America Today RM
- 36 v4n08 Aug "You can't do it in those clothes, you know." BR
- 37 v4n09 Sep The Disarmament Conference: MB
- 38 v4n10 Oct West Virginia: The Same Old Line-up BR
- 39 v4n11 Nov The Unemployment Conference BR [Labor Leader: We've got to make some concessions, sir to keep them quiet."]
- 40 v4n12 Dec Doing the Chores HG

#### 1922

- 41 v5n01 Jan Conference on Far Eastern Questions- HG
- 42 v5n02 Feb John Bull to the Irish Bourgeois: "You Drive Him Now!" -HG
- 43 v5n03 Mar Lenin at Genoa BR
- 44 v5n04 Apr Wage Cut Drive AY
- 45 v5n05 May The Circus at Genoa HG
- 46 v5n06 Jun The Oily Scramble WG
- 47 v5n07 Jul The Knight of the Round Belly RM
- 48 v5n08 Aug Gompers to Capitalist -BR
- 49 v5n09 Sep Four Cartoons by Russell Ru
- 50 v5n10 Oct Just One More Fling WG
- 51 v5n11 Nov-Dec The Dying Wage RM

#### 1923

- 52 v6n01 Jan Pedestrians of the world, Unite! AY
- 53 v6n02 Feb "Vive Poincare!" "Es Lebe Stinnes!" WG
  - [skeletons of France and Germany continue to fight]
- 54 v6n03 Mar In the Ruhr: "Can't we do better than 1914?" RM
- 55 v6n04 Apr Lese Majeste [Gompers] DB
- 56 v6n05 May Man on Horseback [Burns] RM
- 57 v6n06 Jun Exodus from Dixie RM
- 58 v6n07 Jul For God's Sake, Sam, Can't You Hold Him? [Gompers] RM
- 59 v6n08 Aug Labor Gets Up BR
- 60 v6n09 Sep The New Warden RM
- 61 v6n10 Oct The Uncovered Wagon [Gompers] FE
- 62 v6n11 Nov The Victor FE
- 63 v6n12 Dec Look Out! Some More Democracy is Coming! FE

#### 1924

- 64 v7n01 Jan Evolution of the American Peasant RM
- 65 v7n02 Feb Selective Immigration FE

"All imported meat must be stamped with indelible ink:

Docile. No Labor-Union or Communist Tendencies."

- 66 v7n03 Mar Finale [lynching democracy] MB
- 67 v7n04 Apr On the River Styx RM
- 68 v7n05 May Keep the Flag Waving, Charlie RM
- 69 v7n06 Jun Prometheus Bound RM
- 70 v7n07 Jul Barnum was Wrong FE
- 71 v7n08 Aug We Stand for All American Institutions RM
- 72 v7n09 Sep [La Follette's Program] FE
- 73 v7n10 Oct La Folette's Heirlooms FE



### An Interruption

THE LIBERATOR, March, 1918 Vol. I., No. 1. Boardman Robinson



THE LIBERATOR, April, 1918 Vol. I., No. 2.

### GOOD NIGHT!





### "Boys, I Can't Hardly Recognize You!"

### **RECOGNIZE RUSSIA**

THE capitalist press of the Allied countries is loud in its indignation against the so-called "Russian betrayal" at Brest-Litovsk. At the same time, however, it is full of excuses for the peace treaty signed by Rumania with the Central Powers on March 5, 1918; and even justifies the action of the bourgeoisie of Finland and Ukraine in calling upon German troops to fight their own countrymen.

Yet the Russo-German peace-treaty was as much a matter of military necessity as the Rumanian treaty. The Russian army was demoralized and exhausted; Russian economic life had broken down. For all this the Bolsheviki are not to blame. Have we forgotten how the Government of the Tsar deliberately disorganized the economic machinery of the country, allowed the transportation system to go to smash.

and deprived the army not only of arms but even of foodin order to force a separate peace with the Germans? The newspapers were full of these things at the time. . . .

Then came the Provisional Government, which was an unworkable compromise between the Socialists and the party of the burgeoisie. This regime was unable, at first, to accomplish any reorganization of the national life. Even the breadlines instituted under the Imperial Government were never done away with. The soldiers themselves, if they could have received proper support from the country, would have remained in the trenches to defend the country: it was their voice and the voice of the Russian masses which had proclaimed, "No annexations, no indemnities, and the right of self-definition of peoples," and they would have defended those terms. But under the pressure of the Allied Governments, an offensive was commenced in Galicia, and in that

Not only that, but they are wholly abandoned now, and by act the majority of the Russian troops refused to participate. the pressure of Japan in Siberia, greatly weakened in the After this the bourgeois wing of the Government bent heroic struggle they are carrying on against the armed all its efforts to the destruction of the Revolution, continuing might of the Central Powers.

the process begun by the Tsar, and even conniving, it is For the Russian Soviet Government is at war with Gergenerally believed, at the fall of Riga, in order to strengthen many-has been at war with Germany since last summer. discipline in the ranks of the Army. Under their systematic It stands to reason that this is so. The Soviet ruling powers campaign to starve the workers by closing the factories, to break down the Soviets by wrecking the transportation and are Socialists, and as such, enemies of capitalism, and most of all, enemies of the German Imperial system, the archsupply system, and to crush the soldiers' committees by diexponent of militant capitalism. They have been fighting verting food and arms from the front, Russia was brought Germany with the strongest weapon in the world-propainto a complete disintegration. The saving of Russia was ganda-the only weapon against which the sword is ultithe Bolshevik revolution. If that had not happened, the mately powerless. This propaganda, not only among the German army would now be garrisoning Moscow and Petro-German troops, but also in the interior of the country, is grad. remarkably successful. Austria is ready to crack open be-At Brest the Russians were not supported by the Allies,

cause of it, and during the Brest-Litovsk negotiations the and for that reason were forced to accept the German terms.





Boardman Robinson

26

### THE THIRD DEGREE IN THE MIDDLE WEST

"Are you a Republican?" "No."

"Are you a Democrat?" "No."

"Then you're a traitor!"



### The Mollycoddles' Union

"Now, boys, you've been very good, and I'm going to give each of you a five cent stick of candy as a weekly bonus."

"The Association of Western Union Employees ... represents a new idea in the relationship between large employers and employees.... 'Our constitution forbids the use of the strike weapon.'"—N. Y. Times.

Drawn by Art Young



"You Too!"

Drawn by Boardman Robinson.



### The Family of Nations

Drawn by Art Young



Holding the Fort

Drawn by Art Young







Our Elder Statesmen Investigate the Bolsheviki

### LABOR AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE



Drawn by Boardman Robinson.



### NOT BITING

Art Young

 $\mathbf{N}^{\mathrm{EW}\,\mathrm{HAMPSHIRE}}_{\mathrm{opportunity}}$  it has had to break into the White House since the days of Franklin Pierce. And Pierce is just about the kind of President Wood would make.

**T**N the opinion of Secretary Glass the raid on the **L** New York Call was probably the Call's own fault. People who have a Glass secretary can throw all the stones they please.

OLE HANSON and Treat 'Em Rough Empey advocate the beating and hanging of those with whom they disagree. When the Ford case is decided we shall know whether it is safe to call them anarchists.

 $\mathbf{T}$ HOSE who get their information from headlines **I** saw in the N. Y. Times, "Refuse to Strike to Free Mooney." But if you wanted to be nasty and read the piece you found that 220 out of 240 big California unions had voted to strike.

T HE TIMES also says that the "collapse" of the Lawrence strike was the triumph of good unionism over bad unionism. It isn't that so much as the old custom of having a strike collapse after it is won.

 $T_{\rm but}^{\rm HE}$  Paris idea seems to be to recognize Kolchak but to disavow in advance any Jewish massacres which he may commit.

 $T^{\rm EN}$  million people have petitioned Congress on behalf of five cent bread. At least they might be given copies of Ole Hanson's speech advocating the eating of bran.

THE Pennsylvania Federation of Labor has split even on the prohibition question-against the prohibition of beer, but in favor of the prohibition of Burleson.

 $T_{\rm gratulations}^{\rm WO}$  years ago Senator Lodge was receiving congratulations from all over the solar system for valiantly defending himself from an enraged pacifist named Bannwort. Lodge now admits, under pressure of a suit for damages, that he struck Bannwort first.

LI ERE'S to you, Henry Cabot! A first class fightin' man and a splendid liar. HOWARD BRUBAKER.



"I know what this Bolshevism means, Bill-it means us!"

Clive Weed



THE LIBERATOR, August, 1919.

# Soviet Russia

Boardman Robinson



## The International Situation

THE LIBERATOR, September, 1919.





The Cossack



Operator: "Trouble with you people is, you want the earth." Miner: "Trouble with you is, you've got it."



Clive Weed.

There are just two moves they can make-war against Russia which will mean revolution at home; peace with Russia, which will mean the spread of Soviet principles throughout the world.



"Checkmate, Gentlemen!"

Boardman Robinson



The East-Side Jew That Conquered Europe



### Spring Comes To Russia

The Liberator, April, 1920.



Ireland

THE LIBERATOR, May, 1920.



High Salaried Union Official: "Boys, if you don't move this train, we can't ride either." Railroad Worker: "Sure, that's the idea."

Drawn by Clive Weed



Too Much Light

Drawn by Art Young



No More

# Stops !





The Outlook for 1921


"Save Christian Armenia!"





Some people seem to be unpopular everywhere—not wanted here on earth, barred out from heaven for fear of their spoiling it too, and unally, as Dante says, "Neither would deep Hell receive them."

"Nello profondo inferno gli riceve ...." —Dante





Dedicated to the Lockwood Committee, the Whitman Commission, the Shipping Board Inquiry, the Investigation of the Meat-packers, and all other solemn attempts to find out if there is anything the matter.





Back to the Galleys--The Goal of the Open Shop



## Back to the Good Old Times

The Associated Press estimates the number of unemployed in the United States today at from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000



America Today





The Disarmament Conference : "Perhaps we can trim down the expense a little without spoiling his beauty"



West Virginia: The Same Old Line-up





Doing the Chores



The Conference on Far Eastern Questions

IRISH LABOR



John Bull to the Irish Bourgeois: "You Drive Him Now!"

Hugo Gellert





Gompers to Capitalist Villain: "You have reduced me to beggary, Sir Marmaduke; you have burned my house, you have broken my old mother's heart, and eloped with my wife. But have a care; you may go too far!"



# The Wage Cut Drive





The Oily Scramble Sammy: Don't Uncle, it's the Czar's, Leave it to John Bull



The Knight of the Round Belly



Boardman Robinson

## Lenine at Genoa









By William Gropper

## Just One More Fling

"Don't get so hilarius, old 'un; you ain't paid for your last trip yet; and, anyhow, where in hell d'you think I'm takin' you?"







"Vive Poincare!" "Es Lebe Stinnes!"

•



In the Ruhr: "Can't We Do Better than 1914?"



Lese Majesté



Robert Minor

## The Man on Horseback



## The Exodus from Dixie

Robert Minor



Robert Minor

"For God's Sake, Sam, Can't You Hold Him?"



## Labor Gets Up

The Federated Farmer-Labor Party Is Formed in Chicago



The New Warden

Robert Minor.



The Uncovered Wagon



The Victor Soviet Russia Defeats the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse



Look Out! Some More Democracy is Coming!



Robert minors

Robert Minor

Evolution of the American Peasant



# Selective Immigration

All imported meat must be stamped with indelible ink: "Docile. No Labor-Union or Communist Tendencies."



Finale



Robert Minor

ON THE RIVER STYX—"Well Jake, we left some Hell behind us."



"Keep the Flag Waving, Charley!"

Robert Minor



Prometheus Bound Morgan: "Keep him tight, Dawes; if he gets loose, it's another soviet republic."



Barnum Was Wrong



"We All Stand for American Institutions!"

(And these are the American institutions)





### La Follette's Heirlooms

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood When fond recollection presents them to view!" Fred Ellis