Change and Continuity over Time: Historical Thinking and Images of the “New Immigrants”

Bruce A. Lesh
Franklin High School
Reisterstown, Maryland
Who and what is being depicted?
Who and what is being depicted?
And he's Irish--the harp is a symbol of Ireland

He's a Catholic
"WANTED-- An English or American woman, that understands cooking, and to assist in the work generally if wished; also a girl to do chamber work. None need apply without a recommendation from their last place. IRISH PEOPLE need not apply, nor anyone who will not arise at 6 o'clock, as the work is light and the wages are sure. Inquire 359 Broadway."

-- ad in NY newspaper, ca. 1840
THE MOST RECENTLY DISCOVERED WILD BEAST.
"DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT."
What the Irish Roman Catholic Children will be Told to do Next.
"Kick it out Peaceably!"
THE IRISH FRANKENSTEIN.

O MY DEAR SISTER, WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THESE TROUBLESOME PEOPLE?

TRY ISOLATION FIRST, MY DEAR, AND THEN——

THE FENIAN-PEST.
CONTRASTED FACES.

“Look on this picture, and then on that.”—Shakespeare.

Fig. 747.—Florence Nightingale.  Fig. 748.—Bridget McBruiser.

from the New Physiology, 1866
EVERYTHING OBNOXIOUS TO US SHALL BE ABOLISHED
SLAUGHTER OF PEACEFUL LAW-ABIDING IRISH CITIZENS
MASSACRED BY RIGGER MILITIA.
SEE THE IRISH PAPERS.
FENIAN COUNCILS
HANG THE DUTCH GOVERN
ENGLISH GOLD

"IT IS DOUCFUL IF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC CAN STAND THE TAP, GOON WITH THE BASE HIRING POLICE.
PEACEFUL CITIZENS MUST AVERAGE THE MASSACRE OF THE 12TH INSTANT.
UPON WHICH THE BUTCHER OF DUTCHESECT MURDERED, WE MUST RISE."
AS we've dared to call the monkeys in the Zoo by Irish names,
   Erin's sons, in wrath, declare us snobs and flunkies;
And demand that we withdraw them—nor should we ignore their claims—
   For it's really very hard—upon the monkeys.
The Ignorant Vote—Honors are Easy
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service.
American immigration:
(figures within circles in 000’s)

1854
(427,833)

1907
(1,285,349)
How accurately do political cartoons reflect American attitudes towards the “New Immigrants”? 
“The Kind of ‘Assisted Emigrant We Cannot Afford to Admit” 1883
Looking Backward

They would close to the new-comer the bridge that carried them and their fathers over.
“The Dream of the Jews Realized” Judge Magazine 1882
THE AMERICAN RIVER CANGES.

The Priests and the Children.

September 30, 1871
Uncle Sam Is A Man of Many Strong Features

Caption: "Uncle Sam is a Man of Strong Features"
Source: *Judge*
Date: November 26, 1888
Artist: Grant Hamilton
“Mafia in New Orleans
Anarchists in Chicago
Socialists in New York”  ca. 1890
"The Anti-Chinese Wall", Puck
F. Graetz
JUSTICE FOR THE CHINESE.

"It seems to be high time for all good people to come out and show the disreputable outlaws that the local authorities will be sustained by the people, and that law and order must and will be maintained in Portland."—MAYOR GATES, of Portland, Oregon.
Castle Garden Emigrant-Catchers
Source: Puck, June 14, 1882
Artist: Frederick Burr Opper
The Hyphenated American.
Uncle Sam—Why should I let those freaks cast whole votes when they are only half Americans?
“Popery Undermining Free Schools,” from Edward Beecher,
The Papal Conspiracy Exposed and Protestantism Vindicated (1855)
“The Fool Pied Piper” *(Puck, June 2, 1909)*

Rats named: Jail Bird, Murderer, Thief, Criminal, Crook, Kidnapper, Incendiary, Assassin, Convict, Bandit, Fire Brand, White Slaver, [and] Degenerate
THE INEVITABLE RESULT TO THE AMERICAN WORKINGMAN OF INDISCRIMINATE IMMIGRATION.
The Chinese Question
Columbia—"Hands Off: American Means Fair Play for All Men"
The Immigrant. Is he an Acquisition or a Detriment?
"The Promised Land," as Seen from the Dome of Saint Peter's, Rome.

October 1, 1879
"Free education, free land, free speech, free ballot, free lunch."

"No oppressive taxes, no expensive kings, no compulsory military service, no knouts or dungeons."
"Uncle Sam's Lodging House"
*Puck*, Date: June 7, 1882, J. Keppler

Second caption reads: "UNCLE SAM [to Irishman]: 'Look here, you, everybody else is quiet and peaceable, and you're all the time a-kicking up a row!'"
Be Just—Even to John Chinaman

Judge (to Miss Columbia), "You allowed that boy to come into your school, it would be inhuman to throw him out now—it will be sufficient in the future to keep his brothers out!"
IS IT RIGHT FOR A CHINAMAN TO JEOPARD A WHITE MAN'S DINNER?
"Our Self-made 'Cooks'--From Paupers to Potentates."

Source: *Puck*
Date: January 30, 1881
Artist: Frederick Burr Opper

The small caption in the left panel reads: "They are Evicted in the Old Country."

Right panel: "But in America They Do All the Evicting Themselves."
THE FLIGHT OF POPERY FROM ROME TO AMERICA

From Samuel B. Smith, The Flight of Popery from Rome to the West.
"American Gold," *Puck*, May 25, 1882
by Frederick Opper
This anti-Irish cartoon depicts the American Irish working hard for their money, while their Irish relatives at home just sit around and wait for money to be sent to them from the states.
THE SHADOW IN OUR SCHOOLS.
Pacific Chivalry.
Encouragement to Chinese immigration.
Immigration statistics for the past year show that the influx of foreigners was the greatest in our history, and also that the hard-working peasants are now being supplanted by the criminals and outlaws of all Europe.
THE PROPOSED EMIGRANT DUMPING SITE.

Statue of Liberty—"Mr. Wisdom, if you are going to make this island a garbage heap, I am going back to France."
The Wallop

MONOPOLY

Clothing Factories

Keller
THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.
HORSEN'S CHOICE—YOU CAN GO, OR STAY.
How accurately do political cartoons reflect American attitudes towards the “New Immigrants”?

• How have the cartoons portrayed immigrants?

• As historians, how can we verify if these images are accurate and fair? What resource could we access?
Read the description of each of the major immigration acts passed between 1865 and 1924. For each law:

- **Circle**---Who is being allowed or restricted from emigrating to the United States
- **Underline**---How the law is being enforced
- !-=For anything that surprises you
- ?-=For anything you do not understand or raises questions in your mind
Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
- Suspended all Chinese Immigration for 10 years
- Declared that Chinese immigrants were ineligible for naturalization
- Made permanent in 1902

Federal immigration Law (1882)
- Office of Immigration created, established as part of the U.S. Treasury Department, this new office is later given authority over naturalization and moved to the U.S. Justice Department.
- Forbade criminals, paupers, and the insane to immigrate to the United States
- Required immigrants to prove that they would not become a “public charge” (those unable to support themselves.
- Later amended to include the insane, polygamists, prostitutes, alcoholics, anarchists, and those possessing contagious diseases, epileptics, professional beggars, imbeciles, the feeble-minded, tubercular's, persons with physical or mental defects, and persons under age 16 without parents are excluded.

Contract Labor Law (1885)
- Prohibited the importation of workmen under contract

Gentleman’s Agreement (1908)
- Denied passports to Japanese laborers wishing to come to the United States. In return, California promised to repeal school segregation laws directed at Japanese students.

Immigration Act of 1917
- All immigrants 16 years of age or older must demonstrate the ability to read a forty-word passage in their native language. Also, virtually all Asian immigrants were banned from entry into the United States. Vetoed by President’s Cleveland, Taft, and Wilson. Passed over President Wilson’s veto.

Quota Act (1921)
- An annual immigration ceiling is set at 350,000
- A new nationality quota is instituted, limiting admissions to 3 percent of each nationality group’s representation in the 1910 census.
- The law is designed primarily to restrict the flow of immigrants coming from eastern and southern Europe.

Immigration Act of 1924
- A total quota of immigrants allowed into the United States was set at 164,000 per year
- Limited the number of immigrants entering the United States to 2% of each foreign born nationality living in the United States in 1890
- Cut the quota for northern and western European countries by 29%
- Cut the quota for southern and eastern Europe by 87%
- Prohibited any and all immigration from Japan
- The U.S. Border Patrol is created
How did immigrants enter the country?

- Ellis Island, New York
- Angel Island, San Francisco, California
How was immigration controlled???

Inspection Cards

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ellis_Island_video.ogg
**How did immigrants enter the country?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thomas Handy</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Cornwall</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>James M. Reed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mary Desmonde</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>John Matt</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Maria VanGaar</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sarah Wead</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boat Rosters**
Organized Process
B – Back
C – Conjunctivitis
CT – Trachoma
E – Eyes
F – Face
FT – Feet
G – Goiter
H – Heart
K – Hernia
L – Lameness
N – Neck
P – Physical and Lungs
PG – Pregnancy
S – Senility
SC – Scalp
SI – Special Inquiry
X – Suspected Mental defect
X (circled) – Definite signs of Mental defect

Health Check
Mental Check
ARS ALMANACK
UTGIFVEN AF
AMERIKANSKA
 EMIGRANT
CAPT. R. E. JEANSON
AGENT KOMPANIET

30 STATE STREET, NEW YORK.
Czech Magazine
Henry Steinway  Pianos

Marcus Daly  Copper

Andrew Carnegie  Steel

Adolphus Busch  Beer

A.T. Stewart  Department Store
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of New York,
County of New York,

In the Supreme Court of New York County,

Margaretta Bajhazy Bajhazy, aged 21 years,

occupation Dressmaker, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion fair, height 5 feet 6 inches,
weight 100 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes brown

other visible distinctive marks none

I was born in Budapest Hungary
on the 15 day of Feb, anno Domini 1894

I now reside at 432 East 66th St, New York City, N.Y.

I emigrated to the United States of America from Southampton England
on the vessel Mauretania: my last
foreign residence was Budapest Hungary: I am not married; the name
of my wife is; she was born at

and now resides at

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
The Present Gov. of Hungary, of whom I am now a subject;
I arrived at the port of N.Y. in the
State of June, anno Domini 1894: I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court
at New York City, N.Y., this 26 day of July, anno Domini 19

JAMES A. DONEGAN
Clk of the Supreme Court, N.Y.

By Special Clerk. 19
CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

Petition No. 135404

Personal description of holder: date of naturalization: Age 24 years, sex: Male, color: White
complexion: fair, color of eyes: Brown, color of hair: Brown, height: 5 feet 7 inches
weight: 125 pounds, visible distinctive marks: None
Marital status: Married, race: Italian (South), former nationality: Italian

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

ORIGINAL

(Complete and true signature of holder)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Eastern District of New York

Petitioner: JOHN CONTI

address: 512 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn

having petitioned to be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America, and at a term of the Court of the United States District Court of Brooklyn held pursuant to law at

on January 14th, 1930

the court having found that the petitioner is entitled to reside permanently in the United States in such a capacity and was entitled to be admitted, the court therefore

ordered that the petitioner be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is heretofore affixed this 14th day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty and of our Independence the one hundred and Fifty fourth

S: 

[Signature]

Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

By: [Signature] Deputy Clerk.
The Museum of American Immigration

You have been invited to contribute to the new exhibit at the Museum of American Immigration. The museum is developing an exhibit on the New Immigrants of 1880-1925 that focuses on the reasons they came, their treatment in the United States, and the various reactions to their presence. Your exhibit must include at least five items that would help a visitor to the museum understand the new Immigrants. Exhibits may include artifacts, documents, maps, biographies, or any other materials that help people understand the importance of the new immigrants. Consider the countries of origin for these immigrants, examples of them being accepted/rejected into American culture, and other characteristics of their journey over or stay in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Justification for Inclusion in the Exhibit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ellis Island's Problems
Wallace Irwin
*New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser*
June 14, 1904

Down the greasy gang-plank
See the motley pack—
Nothing in the pocketbook,
Tatters on the back,
Pauper, cripple, criminal,
Halt and blind and slow—

Has Uncle Sammy room enough to give 'em all a show?

Citizens of Babel
Shipped from every clime,
Aliens in look and speech,
Brothers in their grime
Rag-tag and nondescript
Mark then as they go—

Has Uncle Sammy room enough to give 'em all a show?

Crime, disease, and wretchedness
Of a hundred lands;
All a world's incompetence
Dumped upon our lands.
Are our furrows ready
Such a seed to sow—

Has Uncle Sammy room enough to give 'em all a show?

In our tainted sweat shops
Where the pauper comes,
In our reeking tenements,
In our festering slums,
Shall we add these thousands
To the overflow—
Has Uncle Sammy room enough to give 'em all a show?
The mortar of assimilation—and the one element that won't mix.
The most Irish city in America in 1900?