
NOTES TO THE READER

The United States Senate Graphic Art Collection consists of almost one thousand historical prints. While the Senate's study collection contains examples of single-issued prints, the focus has been to document those images widely disseminated to the general public. For this reason, also included in the catalogue are select historical photographs, primarily in the form of cartes de visite and stereoviews, considered significant to the Senate collection.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE CATALOGUE

The catalogue is divided into eight thematic chapters: Senate Chamber, Capitol Interior, Capitol Exterior & Grounds, Senate Art, Portraits, Group Portraits, Beyond Capitol Hill, and Political Cartoons & Caricatures. Within each chapter the prints are arranged generally in chronological order by the date of publication, with the exception of the chapter on Portraits, in which the depicted individuals are listed alphabetically by the subject's last name. The Senate Chamber chapter contains prints depicting both old and current Senate Chambers. In the Senate Art section, each print is shown with its fine art counterpart from the U.S. Senate Collection. Senate-related individuals depicted in the Portraits, Group Portraits, and Political Cartoons & Caricatures chapters are identified as specifically as possible, although not always in the captions. All identifiable individuals, Senate-related or otherwise, are included in the index, as are the names of print creators and original artists for all Senate-related images. The appendix features select prints with their keys.

All image photography was done in color. Where the Senate collection contains multiple versions of the same print, the print with optimum resolution in the best physical condition was selected as representative. Identification information for each print consists of title, creator(s), publication or publisher, date of publication, printing technique, dimensions, and object catalogue number (cat. no.), defined as follows.

TITLE

Title expresses the primary text assigned by the publisher relating directly to a print. In the interest of space and clarity, particularly in the case of the political cartoons, any ancillary text is excluded. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are transcribed literally except where front slashes (/) have been added to differentiate between separate titles or subtitles for which no punctuation appears on the print. Brackets ([]) are used to help clarify a depicted subject or person by denoting added words or letters not included as part of the printed title. A title contained completely within brackets was assigned to the print based on its subject matter. Foreign language titles have not been translated.

CREATOR

Creator identifies the full name, or names, of a print's creator (engraver, lithographer, photographer, etc.), followed by the name of the original artist of the image, if known. It is assumed that a print is based on a sketch or a drawing by an original artist unless otherwise noted (e.g., after photograph, after painting). The term "Unidentified" is used when the creator of an image is not known.

PUBLICATION/PUBLISHER

Publication/Publisher notes the full name of the newspaper, book, or individual that published the print. The term "Unidentified" is used when the publication or publisher of a print is unknown.

DATE

Date reflects a print's date of issue or publication. Dates conform to the format of month/day/year. When an exact date is not known, a circa date is used, suggesting a range of plus or minus five years. A print with a circa date or year-only date is listed near the end of other prints from that year.

PRINTING TECHNIQUE

Printing technique describes the process or technique used to create a print, followed by the type of coloring employed. A colored lithograph is referred to as “Lithograph, hand-colored” if it is not machine colored; otherwise, it is referred to simply as “Lithograph, colored,” which denotes either entire machine coloring or a combination of hand and machine coloring. A “Metal engraving” denotes when a more specific metal type (steel or copper) could not be identified conclusively; and a print is simply noted as an “Engraving” if it could not be differentiated as being created in wood or metal. The term “Photomechanical process” is used to describe a variety of processes involving the transfer of a photographic image to a printed format.

DIMENSIONS

Dimensions specify the size of the image, including any directly related text; the entire page size is not noted. Measurements conform to the format of height followed by width, in both inches and centimeters.

CATALOGUE NUMBER

Catalogue number identifies each print with a unique United States Senate control number. Where the collection contains multiple versions of a particular print, the number corresponds to the specific print that was photographed for this catalogue.

Readers who can identify any missing information for prints are invited to submit the information to the Office of Senate Curator. The collection presented in this publication represents the U.S. Senate graphic art holdings as of January 2005. Additional information on the Senate collection is available through the Office of Senate Curator, or at www.senate.gov/art. 