

Robert Minor Editorial Cartoons Collection

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| Accession Number: | SC U:48 |
| Location: | Map Cabinet A, Drawer 5 |
| Dates: | c. 1900 – c. 1920 |
| Size: | 1 oversized folder; 8 items |
| Creator/Collector: | Unknown |
| Acquisition info: | Unknown |
| Accruals: | No accruals expected |
| Custodial history: | Unknown |
| Language: | English |
| Processed by: | Sarah Cain, December 2014 |
| Conservation notes: | All items encapsulated in mylar sleeves and housed in an oversized acid-free folder. |
| Scope and Content: | <p>The collection contains eight (8) original artworks by Robert “Bob” Minor (1884-1952) who was an editorial cartoonist for the <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>. He also earned international fame as one of leading political activists for the Socialist Party of America and later the American Communist Party, where he became the party’s secretary.</p> <p>Minor was born July 15, 1884, in San Antonio, Texas. In 1904, Robert Minor was hired on at the <i>San Antonio Gazette</i> as an assistant stereotypist and handyman at the age of twenty. In his spare time while at the paper, Minor developed his artistic talent. Soon after, he emerged as an accomplished political cartoonist.</p> |

Minor was hired as a cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and made the move to St. Louis. Minor's work, initially very conventional in form using pen-and-ink, was transformed by his move to the use of grease crayon on paper. Over his career Minor gained recognition as a cartoonist, considered to be one of the best in the country. He worked at the *Post-Dispatch* from 1907 to 1912 where he became the chief cartoonist at the *Post-Dispatch* before he left to take a position at the *New York World* and the *Daily Worker*. While at the *World*, Minor became the highest paid cartoonist in the United States. He soon left the *World* and left for Paris to study art at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, the French national art school. He soon became disappointed with the schooling and spent the rest of his time in Paris studying art on his own and taking part in the left wing labor movement through the Socialist Party of France. In 1914 prior to the outbreak of World War I, Minor returned to the United States.

Although back in the States, Minor could not work as his old contract with the *New York World*, which still paid him a salary, keep him from drawing for other print media. Minor, who was highly opposed to World War I, began to make a series of aggressive and provocative cartoons attacking both the Allied Power and the Central Power. The *World* initially began to use the cartoons, but very quickly demanded that Minor begin to draw pro-war panels. To continue working meant that Minor had to choose between his paycheck and his beliefs. Being a man of principle, Minor successfully won his fight against the *World* in having his contract annulled.

Minor moved to the *New York Call*, a socialist daily newspaper, on June 1, 1915. He also began contributing anti-war cartoons to *The Masses*, a Socialist Party affiliated monthly, during his time in New York.

Minor suffered a heart attack in 1948 and died in 1952.

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| Arrangement: | Alphabetical |
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| Remarks: | No remarks |

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| <u>Folder/Item</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1/1 | Finding aid |
| 1/2 | Able seaman. c. 1905 |
| 1/3 | Dictograph. c. 1908 |
| 1/4 | Give me time. 1905-1915 |
| 1/5 | Hadley-Bolt. c. 1912 |
| 1/6 | Murphy of NY. 1905-1920 |
| 1/7 | My Pollies. 1900-1915 |
| 1/8 | Previous engagement [Uncle Sam in Mexico]. 1905-1920 |
| 1/9 | Tug 'o war. c. 1912 |