

American Pamphlets, Series 1, 1820-1922: From the New-York Historical Society

*Research a century of debate and activism,
from the institution of slavery to suffrage*



Quick Facts

Pamphlets capture the diverse attitudes and opinions of often-neglected segments of society

More than 25,000 rare items capture a century of activism and debate on topics as wide-ranging as slavery, suffrage and more

An exceptionally valuable and little-used record of American history, culture and contemporary life

**“An enormous amount of unique and eclectic material
related to ideas, events, institutions, and people of the time.”**

—David Lincove, Professor, History, Political Science, Public Affairs & Philosophy Librarian, Ohio State University

Overview

Created to cajole, convince, inform and edify the American people on nearly every issue of the day, pamphlets have had a powerful impact on American life. As America's population grew rapidly and printing costs declined, the use of pamphlets exploded in the 19th century. Revealing passionate views and perspectives not seen in other print genres, these rare items address the institution of slavery; suffrage for women, African Americans and Native Americans; and dozens of other divisive issues. The collection includes speeches, orations, debates, sermons, treatises, tracts, narratives, poems, songs, memoirs, announcements, legal notices and more.

The under-explored views of overlooked segments of society

This online resource—produced from the New-York Historical Society's extraordinary collection of pamphlets—provides more than 25,000 short works printed in every region of the United States. Key to studies of race, ethnicity and gender in the 19th and early 20th centuries, these pamphlets span 100 years of American life, from the Jacksonian Era through the dawn of the Jazz Age. Researchers will find outstanding coverage of contentious topics related to politics and government, religion and religious movements, art and entertainment, business and economics, health and medicine, education, immigrants and ethnic groups, Native Americans, slavery and the Civil War, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, women, and science and technology.

Perspectives not found in books, periodicals or newspapers

Pamphlets are a genre of printed materials written by authors from an unusually large socio-economic range. Few Americans in the 19th century could afford to publish bound books; however, many more had the means to print pamphlets. As with broadsides and other ephemeral items, pamphlets are a hard-to-find class of primary source materials, rarely collected and catalogued. More than the heavily researched traditional print genres, they offer scholars and students in American history, culture and contemporary life fresh opportunities for insight into a wide spectrum of American society.

Awaiting discovery...a newly available record of the past

This instrumental collection of digitized pamphlets from one of the world's leading historical societies opens up a world of research materials for scholars and students in such disciplines as history, communications, political science, literature, sociology, gender and ethnic studies. *American Pamphlets, Series 1, 1820-1922* is cross-searchable with all other collections on Readex AllSearch to facilitate new research discoveries.

Image: Louis Lang, *Return of the 69th (Irish) Regiment, N.Y.S.M. from the Seat of War, 1862-1863*. Oil on canvas. Collection of the New-York Historical Society



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