



National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

Upcoming Virtual Programs at the National Archives

October is American Archives Month and in celebration the National Archives has an extensive line-up of virtual public programs. A full list can be found [here](#). Below are two that are intended for multiple audiences and are scheduled according to Eastern Daylight Time.

On **Saturday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m. EDT**, the National Archives will host *The Write*

Stuff: Records on Women's Battle for the Ballot. This panel discussion will feature authors **Winifred Conkling, Marjorie Spruill, and Elaine Weiss** who will discuss their work on research and writing in regard to women's rights, suffrage and the movement that has followed. [Registration is required](#) for this **free event**.

On **Saturday, October 17 at 8:00 p.m. EDT**, the National Archives will host a *Virtual Pajama Party* with special guest author **Sharon Robinson**, daughter of civil rights leader and professional athlete Jackie Robinson. Robinson will discuss her book *The Hero Two Doors Down*.

THE WRITE STUFF: Records on Women's Battle for the Ballot

Saturday October 10 @ 3 PM ET

Tune in on YouTube!

The research and writing process is crucial to any successful manuscript—even more so for works of nonfiction that rely upon first person source material to tell a story. Join in a conversation with authors **Winifred Conkling, Marjorie Spruill, and Elaine Weiss** as they discuss their work on researching women's rights, suffrage, and the movement that followed.

October 2020

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Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

- OCT. 10 - 3:00 P.M. EDT VIRTUALLY VIA LIVE-STREAM: *THE WRITE STUFF* PANEL DISCUSSION
- OCT. 17 - 8:00 P.M. EDT VIRTUALLY VIA LIVE-STREAM: *VIRTUAL PAJAMA PARTY*

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

You're invited to a FREE program for kids and their families!

Virtual Pajama Party

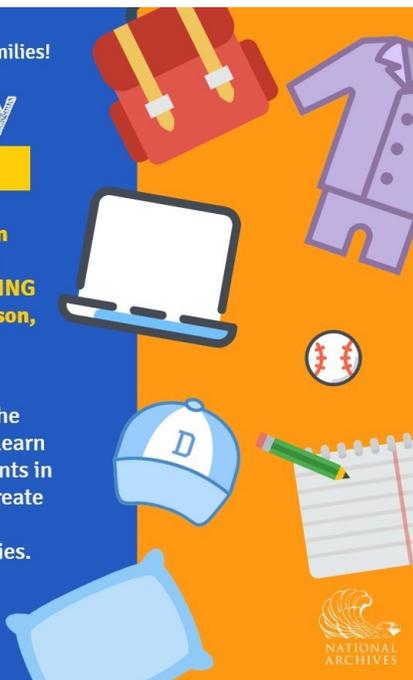
October 17, 8 PM ET

This online event for kids 8-12 will focus on Jackie Robinson's baseball career and his commitment to civil rights activism, **FEATURING a special appearance by author Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie and Rachel Robinson!**



Participants will read "The Hero Two Doors Down," learn about historical documents in the National Archives, create their own artwork, and participate in fun activities.

Questions? Email education@nara.gov



This online event is geared toward children aged 8-12 years-old. The focus will be on Jackie Robinson's baseball career and work as a civil rights leader. Several lessons and activities will be provided to those who register in advance. [Registration is required](#) for this **free event**.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

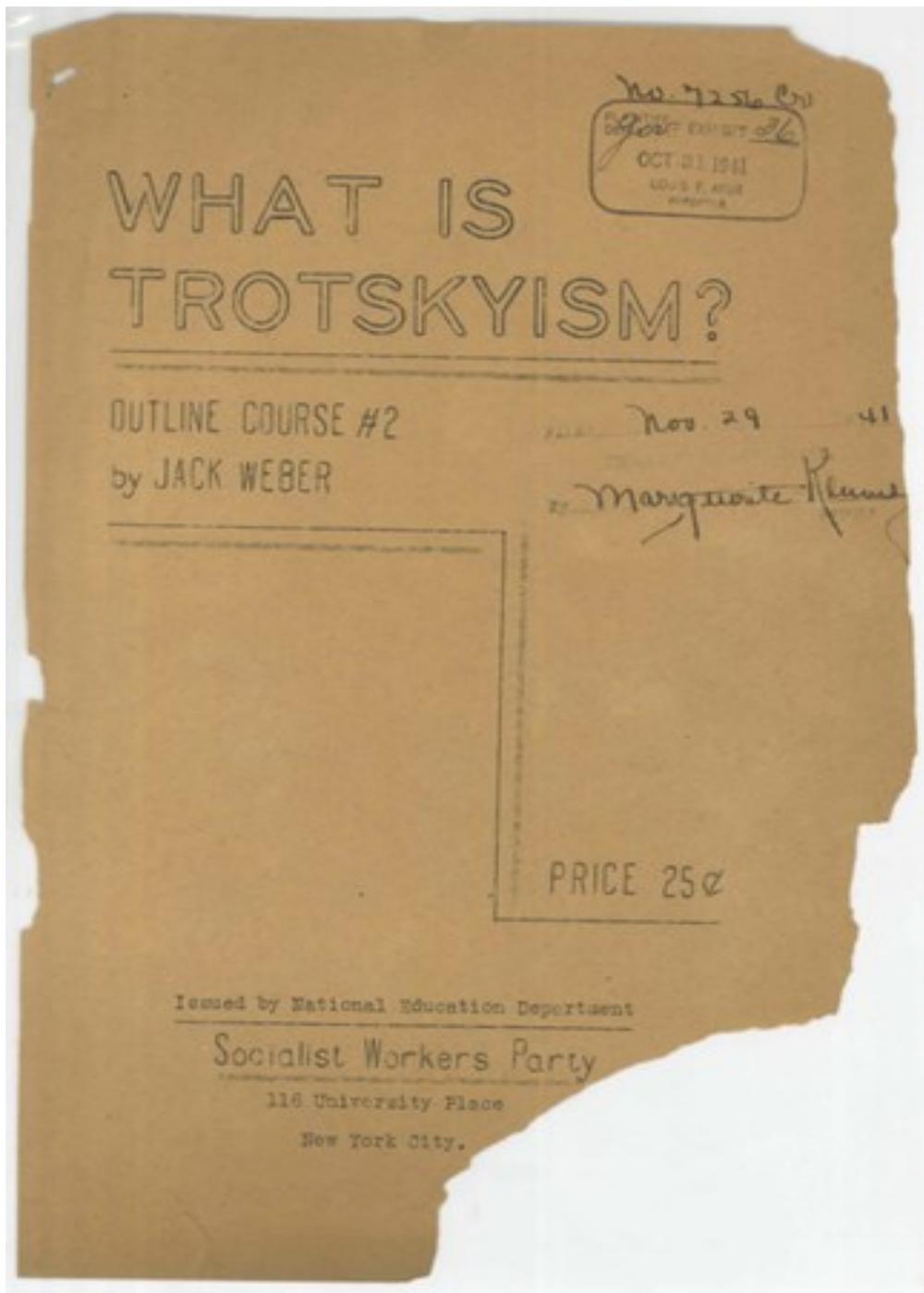
The Smith Act and the Prosecution of Trotskyism in the United States

In connection with the 80th anniversary of Leon Trotsky's death on August 21, 1940, we briefly look back at the life and influence of the Russian revolutionary. Rising to prominence as a leader in the October Revolution, Trotsky held leadership posts in foreign and military affairs from 1917 to 1927. Regarded as second in command of the Soviet government under Vladimir Lenin, Trotsky served as one of the seven members of the Soviet Union's first Politburo, which acted as the highest policy-making authority. However, his prominence began to decline from 1922 to 1924 while Lenin's health deteriorated. During this period Joseph Stalin, serving as General Secretary in the Soviet government, formed alliances and made political moves to block Trotsky as Lenin's successor.

By the time of Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin's ambitions succeeded and he assumed leadership over the country. Trotsky and his allies within the government were reduced to a minority faction and they had been cut out of the decision making process. By October 1927, Trotsky had lost his leadership positions and was exiled from the Soviet Union in February 1929. Spending the rest of his life in exile, Trotsky's political philosophy developed into what is known as Trotskyism and his adherents were known as Trotskyists.

Trotskyists advocated for democratic governance by the working class majority rather than a minority faction under totalitarianism, which Stalin later instituted. They were opposed to Stalin's form of government bureaucracy. Trotskyists also disagreed with Stalin's theory of socialism in one country and instead advocated for global socialism. These beliefs and many others would prove to be too much of a threat to Stalin and his followers.

During the Great Purges of 1936 - 1938, many of the remaining Trotskyists within the Soviet Union were executed. On August 20, 1940, while in exile in Mexico, Trotsky was assassinated with an ice axe by Ramon Mercader, a Spanish born Soviet police agent. The act was considered a political assassination directed by Stalin. Subsequent to the assassination, Mercader's mother received the highest Soviet civilian decoration, the Order of Lenin, for taking part in the operation. In 1961, Mercader received the title Hero of the Soviet Union.



Above: Cover page of training course "What is Trotskyism." Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Courts of the United States, Fourth (Minneapolis) Division of the District of Minnesota, Criminal Case Files, 1907-1969, *United States v. Vincent Raymond Dunne and Grant Dunne*. National Archives Identifier 283641.

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Prior to Trotsky's assassination, Trotskyism had gained adherents throughout the world, including the United States. Co-founded in 1928 by Rosedale, Kansas native James P. Cannon, the Communist League of America formed after Trotskyists were expelled from the Communist Party USA. After a decade of reformatations and mergers adherents of Trotskyism founded the extant Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in 1938.

On June 27, 1941, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents raided the offices of the SWP in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. By mid-July, a Federal grand jury indicted 29 people under the Smith Act.

The Smith Act, also known as the Alien Registration Act, enacted on June 28, 1940, required all non-citizen adult residents to register with the Federal government. It also established penalties for promoting the overthrow of the United States government. Those convicted could incur fines, face incarceration, and be temporarily barred from Federal employment.

Those first prosecuted for violating the Smith Act included SWP party leaders: James P. Cannon, Carl Skoglund, Farrell Dobbs, Grace Carlson, Harry DeBoer, and Albert Goldman. Goldman served as the defendant's lawyer during the trial.

Evidence centered on exhibits in the form of SWP pamphlets, training courses, and other ephemera that advocated the overthrow of the government. The prosecution also pushed the narrative that SWP leadership was conspiring with Trotsky to overthrow the United States government. Prosecutors presented evidence, in the form of testimony and photographs, which connected several of the defendants to Trotsky.

(Continued on next page.)



Above: Evidence from the case as Leon Trotsky posed with American Trotskyites Harry De Boer and James H. Bartlett and their spouses; print autographed by Trotsky, April 5, 1940. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Courts of the United States, Fourth (Minneapolis) Division of the District of Minnesota, Criminal Case Files, 1907-1969, *United States v. Vincent Raymond Dunne and Grant Dunne, Leon Trotsky and American Admirers, Mexico 1940*. National Archives Identifier 283642.

I helped defend

10¢

Leon Trotsky

HELP DEFEND

Leon TROTSKY Against Stalin's Assassins

Collect from your friends
and shopmates.

Send contributions promptly.

TROTSKY DEFENSE FUND

FARRELL DOBBS
JAMES P. CANNON
ROSE KARSNER, *Treasurer*

116 UNIVERSITY PLACE

New York, N. Y.

*Make checks or money order payable
to Treasurer*



I helped defend

50¢

Leon Trotsky

I helped defend

25¢

Leon Trotsky

No. 72560 v.

PLAINT EXHIBIT 24
DEFENDANT
OCT 20 1941
LOUIS F. AYER
REPORTER

24
1941
nov. 29
FILED

THOMAS H. HOWARD, Clerk,

By Marguerite Kenna
Deputy

Above: Trotsky Defense Fund Tickets. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Courts of the United States, Fourth (Minneapolis) Division of the District of Minnesota, Criminal Case Files, 1907-1969, *United States v. Vincent Raymond Dunne and Grant Dunne*. National Archives Identifier 283641.

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After hearing the arguments a jury found the defendants guilty. On December 8, 1941, those convicted served sentences ranging from 12 to 16 months and became the first persons, but not the last, convicted for promoting the overthrow of the U.S. government. By 1957, over 200 individuals were indicted before similar prosecutions and convictions under the Smith Act were brought to an end by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's 1957 decision in *Yates v. United States* held that the First Amendment protected the promotion of radical beliefs. This included the publication of material that advocated the forcible overthrow of the government. Individuals could only be prosecuted if their speech posed a clear and present danger or action was taken to forcibly take over the government.

SPECIAL STAMPS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 4-20-39 Initiation 50c P | 6-22-39 Convention 1939 \$1.00 |
|-----------------------------------|---|

TRANSFER RECORD

7

Date Admitted

Transferred to

Date of Transfer

Secretary

Date Admitted

Transferred to

Date of Transfer

Secretary

Date Admitted

Transferred to

Date of Transfer

Secretary

FILED
 THOMAS H. HOWARD, CLERK,
 BY *Marguerite Kennedy*

5
 OCT 20 1941
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
 No 7256 Cr.

Membership Card
 No. **999**
 Name *Henry Harris*
 Admitted *April 20-1939*
 Branch
 Local *Minneapolis*
Oscar Cooper
 (Secretary)

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

291

REGULAR DUES STAMPS - YEAR 1939

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | S. W. Dues 4-20-39 50c P |
| 6-22-39 S. W. Unemployed Youth Dues P | 6-22-39 S. W. Unemployed Youth Dues P | 7-13-39 S. W. Unemployed Youth Dues P | 8-17-39 S. W. Unemployed Youth Dues P |
| SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. |

INTERNATIONAL DUES STAMPS
YEAR 1939

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | S. W. International 4-20-39 10c P |
| 6-22-39 S. W. International 10c P | 6-22-39 S. W. International 10c P | 7-13-39 S. W. International 10c P | 8-17-39 S. W. International 10c P |
| SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. |

REGULAR DUES STAMPS - YEAR 1940

| | | | |
|-------|------|------|------|
| JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | APR. |
| MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG. |
| SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. |

INTERNATIONAL DUES STAMPS
YEAR 1940

| | | | |
|-------|------|------|------|
| JAN. | FEB. | MAR. | APR. |
| MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG. |
| SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. |

Sixty-three years after the Supreme Court's decision Trotsky's ideas are still advocated in the U.S., though no longer by the SWP. In 1982, the SWP stopped advocating Trotskyism in favor of Castroism. Today, Trotskyism is largely championed by the Socialist Equality Party. More information about this case can be found in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Above and Left: Membership Card for the Socialist Workers Party. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Courts of the United States, Fourth (Minneapolis) Division of the District of Minnesota, Criminal Case Files, 1907-1969, *United States v. Vincent Raymond Dunne and Grant Dunne*. National Archives Identifier 283641.

Fall Online Learning for Educators and Students

Join us online for interactive learning programs! In partnership with the Presidential Primary Sources Project, we are offering programs for students in grades K-12 and for educators looking for professional development. All programs are scheduled according to Eastern Daylight Time. To sign up for any of the sessions below, visit the [Distance Learning Sign Up Page](#).

- Thursday, October 1: Georgia on my Mind: President Carter at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Reflections on the life of President Carter on his 96th Birthday. (Aimed at grades 6-12).

- Tuesday, October 6: Tinker v. Des Moines: Constitutional Rights at School, with Mary Beth Tinker at 2:00 p.m. EDT

The Supreme Court says students "do not shed their Constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." Join us for a look at the First Amendment and a discussion with Mary Beth Tinker from the landmark Supreme Court Case *Tinker v. Des Moines* to learn about her experience and how children are changing the world by exercising their First Amendment rights! (Aimed at grades 7-12)

- Thursday, October 8: Red Scare, Spies Among Us? at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were members of the Communist Party living in the U.S. when they were convicted of passing secrets to the Soviet Union in 1945 and sentenced to death. Controversy surrounded the case, as many claimed the decision was the result of Cold War hysteria rather than facts. In this program, students examine primary documents from people both inside and outside of the Intelligence Community, and then examine President Eisenhower's decision of whether or not to grant executive clemency to the Rosenbergs. (Aimed at grades 7-12)

- Tuesday, October 13: Bootleggers, Flappers, and Gangsters-Prohibition, the Noble Experiment at 2:00 p.m. EDT

In 1920, the 18th Amendment to the Constitution went into effect, which banned the production and sale of most alcoholic beverages. Even though the majority of Americans favored Prohibition, the law inadvertently encouraged increased drinking, spawned organized crime and disrespect for law, and made the decade the "roaring 20s." When Herbert Hoover ran for President in 1928, he promised to find a better way to enforce Prohibition. In May 1929, President Hoover appointed George Wickersham to head the National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, also known as the "Wickersham Commission." Join us as we look at campaign promises regarding prohibition in 1928 and 1932, learn about the Wickersham Commission, the rise of organized crime, and the society that did not follow the law. (Aimed at grades 6-12)

- Wednesday, October 14: Introducing the Eisenhower Memorial at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Join a park ranger for a look at National Mall and Memorial Park's newest memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower. Explore how this memorial addresses a military leader and president and incorporates its location into the story. Examine how art and words combine to highlight significant moments in Eisenhower's life. (Aimed at Grades 7-12)

- Thursday, October 15: Use it Up! Scarifies on the WWII Home Front at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Sacrifices on the World War II Home Front." Every aspect of American life was focused toward winning during World War II, and everyone tried to do their part to support the Allied troops. Students will explore primary sources like ration books and propaganda posters to learn how Americans on the home front helped our troops win the war. (Aimed at grades 6-8)

- Thursday, October 22: Chemistry Roadshow at 11:00 a.m. EDT

Learn about chemistry experiments in an exciting hands-on dynamic & fun program! (Aimed at grades 3-8).

- Tuesday, October 27: Truman's Life Through Objects at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Ten objects will be showcased that tell Truman's life from his early childhood to his momentous decisions as president and into retirement. Students will analyze objects from the Truman Library and Museum in this interactive session. (Aimed at grades 3-8)

- Thursday, October 29: Attic Artifacts at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Following World War II, many Americans kept souvenirs of lost loved ones or their time in the war. Many of these articles were stored in boxes or trunks and then tucked away in attics, basements, and garages for decades. In this program, students examine a variety of artifacts from the World War II in order to learn how important they are as sources of information. (Aimed at grades 4-8)

2021 National History Day Information for Educators and Students

DocsTeach, the National Archives online portal for educators and students, has launched a variety of resources for the 2021 National History Day theme of *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*.

Students and educators can find a wide array of materials related to communication topics including, but not limited to: propaganda, child labor photographs, women's suffrage petitions, President Roosevelt's infamy speech, communication through art, war photography, letters about civil rights, war order, and a secret decoded telegram. More information can be found [here](#).



National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of September 29, 2020)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries.

While we are closed, we invite the public to explore our online resources by visiting www.archives.gov and viewing our [online exhibits](#) and [educational resources](#) and participating in our [Citizen Archivist Missions](#).

Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended through December 31, 2020. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).



GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us [@KCArchives](#). Follow us on Instagram at [kansascity.archives](#). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.