

Finding Aid to the John Miller Baer Cartoon Collection

Baer, John Miller, 1886-1970

John Miller Baer Cartoons, 1916-1933

24 cartoons

Collection number: Photo Folio 108

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OVERVIEW

Links: View the collection in [Digital Horizons](#).

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donor unknown.

Property Rights: The Institute owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: The copyright status is unknown, likely all images are in the public domain.

Citation: [Identification of item]. John Miller Baer Cartoon Collection, Photo Folio 108, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

John Miller Baer was born on a farm at Black Creek, Outagamie County, Wisconsin on March 29, 1886. He graduated from Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin in 1909 and moved to Beach, N.D. From 1909 to 1915 he worked as a civil engineer and also managed the farm of his father-in-law J.R. Smith. He married Estella G. Kennedy of Minneapolis, Minn. on Dec. 28, 1910, the daughter of J.R. Smith. Baer also served as postmaster at Beach from 1909 to 1915. He became active in the Nonpartisan League from the beginning. A.C. Townley, one of the formative leaders of the Nonpartisan League also farmed in the

Beach, N.D. area and was acquainted with Baer. Townley persuaded him to resign as Beach postmaster and become the chief cartoonist for the league. Baer moved to Fargo, N.D. where he began drawing cartoons for the league's newspaper the *Courier-News* and later the *Nonpartisan Leader*.

In 1916 he was elected as the Nonpartisan League candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives. He filled the vacancy caused by the death of Henry T. Helgesen. Baer served from July 10, 1917 to March 3, 1921. He lost his reelection bid in the 1920 election. Thereafter he resumed his activities as a cartoonist and journalist with the *Labor*, a weekly newspaper published in Washington, D.C. by the national railroad unions. He continued in the cartooning field the next fifty years, living in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He is credited coining the term 'New Deal' in a 1931 cartoon that was used as a campaign slogan by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

John Miller and Estella Baer had three sons, John II, Byron and Alfred. The elder son was the eighth John M. Baer in unbroken sequence, born in America. John Miller Baer died in Washington, D.C. on February 18, 1970 and buried at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Additional biographical information can be found in Institute Small Collection 622.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The John Miller Baer Cartoon collection consists of twenty-four original ink drawings by Mr. Baer, most of which were used in the *Nonpartisan Leader* publication. The provenance to the collection is not known. Whether they were donated by Mr. Baer or from a third party is not known.

Almost all have Baer's initials 'JMB' included as well as the year they were drawn. Most date from 1916 to 1918. There is one dated 1920 and one likely done in 1933. The cartoons have no particular order within the collection.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Folder	Contents
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1	Finding aid
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Nonpartisan League Cartoons Series

2	<i>Don't Become Discouraged ...</i> , n.d.
3	<i>Biting the Hand that Feeds Him</i> , 1917
4	I'll Get Some of the Bills Cleaned Up ..., 1917
5	North Dakota Farmer portrayed as a pilgrim, 1916
6	<i>His New Easter Bonnet!</i> , 1917
7	<i>There's No Use Kickin ...</i> , 1917

- 8 *Say nothin' and saw wood*, 1917
9 *Robbing the cradle of the meat industry*, n.d
10 *Big Biz*, 1917
11 *These Fine Old Gang Ruins for Sale*, 1917
12 *What! Eggs 50¢Each? ...*, n.d.
13 *Vote for Grace, Birdzell, and Robinson for Supreme Court*, n.d.
14 *Now's Your Chance*, 1916
15 *I'm So Busy Raising Food for our Allies and My Boys Over There ...*, 1918
16 *War and Civil Government Expenses*, n.d.
17 *The Politician Will Have to Disguise Himself*, 1917
18 *Christmas, a Few Socks, a Chimney and Gifts*, 1916
19 *The Seven Ages of Pants*, 1916
20 *The Difference in Their Past Records*, [1933?]
21 *Mrs. Cow Very Kindly Gave an Interview to M.T. Dome*, 1916
22 *If We Would Get Better Grades Instead of Seeds, from our Congressmen ...*, 1917
23 *You Can Harvest in Spite of the fall Rains Says Empty Dome*, n.d.
24 *Definitions of Bolshevism*, 1920

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