

# Content included in *Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture, 1790-1920*

## **Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy, 1845-1920**

Monographs from Primary Source Media, filmed for the Pennsylvania Prison Society; English

The Pennsylvania Prison Society, founded in Philadelphia in 1787, was the first private agency to concentrate specifically on correctional issues. The society's journal, first published as *The Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy* in 1845 and renamed *The Prison Journal* in 1921, was one of the earliest periodicals devoted to studies of correction and crime. The articles run the gamut of subjects related to these fields, from discussions of penal philosophy to inmate interviews and analyses of prison costs. The journal not only provides information on prison conditions and the evolution of the American penal system, particularly in Pennsylvania, but also offers a detailed record of the penal reform movement in the United States.

## **Crime and the Criminal Justice System: Records from The U.K. National Archives; 1780-1926**

Manuscripts and some monographs from The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom); English

Records from the Home Office, Metropolitan Police, Central Criminal Court, Prison Commission; these include items such as police guides/instructions, criminal records, registers of murder and other violent crime, and prisoner photographs.

## **Nineteenth Century Crime: Literature, Reports, and True Crime from the American Antiquarian Society; 1750-1923**

Monographs from the American Antiquarian Society; English, French, and German

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in the United States saw the establishment and growth of the penitentiary system, and by the late nineteenth century, the modern U.S. correctional institution was established. These and other social changes are reflected in this collection, which contains historical accounts of crime and punishment (true crime); novels dealing with crime, adventure, and war; legal documents, including case law and legislative reports; and other supporting documents.

Of note is the large collection of dime novels, many previously uncatalogued, which are highly sought by scholars. There is also a rich collection of city mysteries and risqué literature.

The state and town documents in this collections capture key data regarding crime statistics related to types of crimes, punishments, and policing, and will be highly useful for those researching the sociology and history of crime in the United States.

## **Nineteenth Century Crime: Manuscripts from the American Antiquarian Society; 1750-1923**

Manuscripts, broadsheets, congressional notes, ballads, and lithographs; English

This collection contains assorted legal papers of individuals, towns, counties, and state governments, as well as a number of lithographs. It offers a rich selection of attorneys' records, police and sheriff records, drafts of bills and laws, case notes, accounting records, lists of evidence and witnesses, notes on testimony and case strategy, inventories, and correspondence relating to legal cases in the mid-to-late-nineteenth century.

## **Criminal Case File of the U.S. Circuit Court; 1789-1860**

Manuscripts from the National Archives (United States); English

This collection contains court documents from criminal cases from the years 1790 to 1845, from federal courts in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th circuits (Southern District of New York, District of Pennsylvania, and 4th Circuit in Maryland).

The collection includes complaints, pleadings, affidavits, and court findings that provide a glimpse into life in the early days of the republic. Crimes include piracy, mutiny and other crimes on the high seas, slave trading and harboring fugitive slaves, counterfeiting and forgery, perjury, mail theft, sedition, smuggling, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy to invade nations at peace with the United States, all of which touch on major social debates of the time. There are also cases concerning the unlawful fitting out and arming of vessels, trading without a license, and evading customs duties.

## **Files of the Department of Justice:**

### **Judge Isaac C. Parker; 1875-1896**

Manuscripts from the National Archives (United States); English

This collection contains correspondence and documents from Judge Isaac C. Parker, who served as a federal district judge for the Western District of Arkansas and parts of the Indian Territories from 1875 to 1896.

Known as the “hanging judge,” Parker’s career is more complex. The papers here provide a view of Native American law, Parker’s interest in rehabilitating offenders, improving prison conditions, and reforming the criminal justice system. Also included is documentation around the 160 death sentences handed down during his tenure.

### **Letters Received by the Department of Justice from the Territory of Dakota; 1871-1884**

Manuscripts from the National Archives (United States); English

This collection contains correspondence received by the U.S. Department of Justice from the Dakota Territory from January 1871 to August 1884. The Dakota Territory was nearly as new in 1871 as the Department of Justice. The Yankton Treaty, ceding land that was to become the Dakota Territory to the United States, was signed only thirteen years earlier, and the final boundaries of the territory were not established until 1868. The decade between 1870 and 1880 saw a population explosion in the territory, leading to the eventual statehood of North and South Dakota in 1889. This collection shows the development of both of these growing entities in tandem.

Included in the collection are handwritten pleadings, affidavits, and findings of fact, as well as letters from United States Attorneys discussing criminal cases. Homestead applications and relationships with the Native Americans are also prominent issues, especially U.S. court jurisdiction over crimes involving Native Americans.

### **Frontier Crimes and Criminals: Selections from Western American Frontier History; 1840-1926**

Monographs from Primary Source Media; English

This collection features monographs related to crime in the American West. Titles were selected for relevant content, many of which appear in the bibliography *Six-Guns and Saddle Leather*, by Ramon F. Adams.

### **Law, Crime, and Society in Hanoverian England: The Old Bailey Proceedings; 1714-1834**

Monographs from Primary Source Media; English

This collection contains documents from trials that took place at the Old Bailey, providing important insight into eighteenth-century law, which so crucially impacted changes in the nineteenth century.

## **Crime, Criminology and Civil Liberties:**

### **Archives of the Howard League for Penal Reform, The Howard Journal; 1921-1976**

Periodicals from Primary Source Media; English

The Howard League for Penal Reform is world-famous for its influence on both philosophical thought and policy towards crime. It was formed in 1921 by the amalgamation of the Howard Association (founded 1866) and the Penal Reform League (founded 1907).

It has to its credit a considerable roll call of reforms. No other source can parallel its archives and publications. This collection provides the complete run of the extremely significant Howard Journal, 1921-1976, as well as documents related to the organization itself.

### **Conspiracy Trials in America, 1919-1953**

Manuscripts from Primary Source Media; English

This collection contains documents related to communism or alleged communism in America in the early twentieth century, including court records for 23 of the most significant U.S. conspiracy trials.

### **FBI File on Sacco/Vanzetti; 1921**

Manuscripts from Primary Source Media; English

This file details the FBI’s investigation of anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who in 1920 were convicted and executed for the murder of a shoe company employee and his guard. The bulk of the material in this collection is dated 1921, during the murder trial, and includes information pertaining to the murder charges and trial itself — letters, reports, newspaper clippings, and other related material.

### **Trial and Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti; 1920-1926**

Manuscripts from Primary Source Media; English

This collection contains documents relating to the famous 1921 murder trial and subsequent appeals of two anarchist immigrants. Included are the transcript of the 1921 trial, the judge’s 1926 decision regarding another man’s confession to the crime, letters and other private documents written by the prisoners, and contemporary magazine articles about this case.

## Crime and Justice in Europe: Monographs and Ephemera from the British Library; 1675-1923

Monographs and broadsheets from the British Library; English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Latin, and Polish

This collection contains an international selection of nineteenth-century studies of criminal law and procedure. With monographs written in several languages, including German, French, Italian, and English, these studies show the development of scholarly and popular thought on criminal law.

The collection contains documents on legal reform, such as a 1900 proposal for the Swiss Civil Code (Code Civil Suisse Avant-Project from the Département Fédéral de Justice et Police), and the 1844 Italian collection Collezione di Reali Rescritti: Leggi Decreti e Regolamenti; Istruzioni, Ministeriali e Sovrane Risoluzioni en Materia Civile, Penale, Ecclesiastica, Commerciale ed Amministrativa (Collection of Sovereign Edicts on Civil, Criminal, Ecclesiastic, Commercial and Administrative Matters). There is also a study of criminal defenses, the French Étude les cas de non culpabilité et les excuses en matière pénale (Studies of Cases in Which Defendants Were Found Not Guilty, and Justifications in Criminal Matters), written in 1877.

There are also case studies, such as Max Roderich's 1850 Verbrechen und Strafe: Eine Sammlung interessanter Polizeil- und Criminal-Rechtsfälle, nach den Acten bearbeitet (Crime and Punishment: A Collection of Interesting Police and Criminal Cases). Some have a medical bent, such as a collection of speeches from an 1868 Italian conference on criminal codes for experts in forensic medicine, Confronto del Codice Penale Vigente nelle Provincie Venete a Quello nelle Altre d'Italia ed al Proposto per Tutto il Regno (Comparison of the Existing Criminal Codes in the Provinces of Veneto with Those in the Rest of Italy and Those Proposed for the Entire Kingdom). There is also an Italian Trattato Di Chimica Applicata (Treatise on Applied Chemistry).

Finally, the collection contains some popular works, such as a collection of German crime stories and an 1865 sermon on suicide by the prolific religious author George Edward Biber. There is also an undated illustrated broadsheet on Murders by Cannibals, depicting the murder and dismemberment of a "fine young woman," a father and son, and several others at the hands of "savage tribes" in New Zealand. This broadsheet contains records of torture, a poem, and a detailed recipe for the ritual preparation of human flesh.

## Crime and Justice in Europe: Periodicals and Newspapers from the British Library; 1800-1923

Periodicals and newspapers from the British Library; English, French, and Italian

This collection contains an international selection of periodicals and newspapers related to criminal law from 1800 to 1923.

A centerpiece of the collection is the combative Venetian journal L'Eco dei Tribunali (The Echo of the Courts), published from 1850 to 1876. The journal was a powerful advocate

for liberal reform of the criminal law. L'Eco dei Tribunali published important work on the draft reform of the penal and civil codes and compared existing and proposed Italian laws with those of other nations. The journal was a strong advocate for the liberal principles established in the Constitution for Criminal Justice in 1849. It called for public trials and the introduction of juries at a time when those were not allowed by the Austrian Code.

But L'Eco dei Tribunali did not only concern itself with laws and abstract theories. It published statistics from criminal trials in Venice and studies of specific crimes such as prostitution. It was a stringent advocate for reform of Venetian and Italian prisons. It published items on forensic medicine and commented on the establishment of new courts and judicial districts. Thus, the journal contains a wealth of practical information, in addition to its status as a player in the reform of Italian criminal law.

## Crime and Justice in Europe: Manuscripts from the British Library; 1786-1900

Manuscripts from the British Library; English

This collection contains lists of cases, handwritten notes, and miscellaneous manuscripts relating to criminal law. The bulk of the collection consists of lists of criminal cases from the assizes, labeled by county and year. There are also handwritten notes on cases at both the assizes and the Queen's Bench, some of them submitted by magistrates. The notes contain eyewitness accounts of criminal activity and other witness statements. Some notes contain lists of officials such as the members of jail committees. These notes provide an inside look into nineteenth-century criminal trials, as well as insight into the thought processes of the magistrates judging the offenders.

The collection also includes a plan for constructing a more humane jail. Architectural plans include more natural light for the prisoners, and there is a listing of well-defined duties and professional standards for the officers. There are reflections on all aspects of prison life, including the clothing for female prisoners. There are also Italian materials, including rules regarding prisons (Regolamento circa la Casa di Correzione), that reflect the nineteenth-century trend toward more humane but regulated confinement.

Finally, there is a list of pamphlets written on subjects related to criminal justice and policing, including "A Plan for Preventing Robberies within Twenty Miles of London" (1751) and "On Origin and Effects of a Police Set on Foot by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle" (1758) written by Sir John Fielding, the criminal law reformer who started England's first professional police force, the Bow Street Runners. The earliest is "The Origin of the Power and Duty of Constables" (1677). There are also pamphlets on grand juries, justices of the peace, laws against immorality, jury charges, vagrants, the preservation of health, and criminal reform, as well as several pamphlets on the Watch and other police forces.

## **Wrongdoing in Spain and England in the Long Nineteenth Century; 1750-1920**

Monographs from Cambridge University Library and the British Library; Spanish and English

This collection of *suelos* (chapbooks) is sourced from the Cambridge University Library and the British Library and is part of the “Wrongdoing Project.” These predecessors of the yellow press provide a fascinating bird’s-eye view of popular street literature in Spain from the late eighteenth century onwards, covering not only crimes and misdemeanors, but also the punishments and censure they attracted.

## **Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency Records, Letterpress Books and Miscellaneous Reports; 1853-1920**

Manuscripts from the Library of Congress; English

These records detail the running of Pinkerton’s Detective Agency New York Office from 1865 to 1875, a period in which the agency was protecting Midwestern railways and establishing its reputation on the frontier. The collection contains a daily journal of the New York office from October 27, 1865 to March 26, 1866 and Allan Pinkerton’s correspondence with George H. Bangs, the General Superintendent of the New York office from February 7, 1869 to December 31, 1870. There are also miscellaneous investigation records and reports from January 24, 1874 to July 26, 1875.

Students of both politics and criminal justice will also appreciate the detailed records of Pinkerton’s interviews and surveillance. The cases are often cryptically referred to but appear to involve burglaries and train robberies. There are also records that refer obliquely to surveillance of union activities at the railroads that were Pinkerton’s clients. Journals record union meetings, note the names and activities of union leaders, and report conversations with political candidates about union activities.

## **The Cleveland Workhouse and House of Refuge and Correction Records; 1855-1950**

Manuscripts from Primary Source Media/Western Reserve Historical Society; English

This collection is a valuable source for the study of penology and charity in a major city. The Workhouse included The House of Refuge and Corrections, a juvenile facility, and a penal farm colony. In addition to documents related to the Workhouse, some material relates to allied organizations, including the City Infirmary and Department of Outdoor Relief.

## **Wood Detective Agency Records; 1865-1934**

Manuscripts from Harvard University Law Library; English

The collection includes accounts, articles, biographies, cartes-de-visite, case notes, correspondence, clippings, photographs, speeches, statements, tintypes, and wanted

posters. The main body of the material relates to criminals and criminal activities occurring in the United States, particularly New England.

Of note: The photographic material in the collection offers glimpses at both the criminal and victim. The subject of abused children is well documented in the collection, with over fourteen photographs depicting young “padrone slaves,” who were Italian immigrants forced into a form of slavery that existed in Boston between 1878-1881.

## **Nineteenth-Century Crime and Policing: Monographs and Newspapers from the Library of Congress; 1866-1923**

Monographs and newspapers from the Library of Congress; English, French, and Spanish

This collection is valuable to researchers studying the wide array of depictions of the criminal world of more than a century ago, whether fictional, sensationalist, editorial, or journalistic.

In the United States in the nineteenth century, the influx of immigrants into major cities such as New York and Boston, as well as the rapid expansion of the Western frontier, led to an increasingly lawless society that required the passage of new regulations governing public behavior as well as the creation of police forces, prisons, and other law enforcement institutions. This collection contains newspapers and monographs dating from 1866 to 1923 that chronicle crime and police activity during that tumultuous time.

## **Queensland Police Gazettes; 1867-1907**

Newspapers from the State Library of Queensland; English

The Queensland Police Gazette was established in 1864 as an internal resource for the local police force in Queensland, Australia. This archive contains issues of the Gazette from 1867 to 1907.

This was a period of immense change for Australia. Queensland had only recently become an independent colony, in 1867 (the date of the earliest materials in the archive), and in 1901 Australia became an independent country.

Lists of crimes committed, arrest warrants, and other material in the Gazette shed light on what was considered immoral and illegal behavior at the time. For example, the arrest report for the week ending January 22, 1898 includes not only crimes familiar today (e.g., assault, larceny, and arson) but also “carnally knowing,” “supplying charcoal opium to an aboriginal,” “wife desertion,” “attempted buggery,” and even “being a neglected child.”

Also included are notices of promotions, transfers, and outside assignments of Queensland officers; court lists; instructions on police conduct; changes in regulations and laws; notices from police gazettes in other Australian states; warrants and summonses; and other material relevant to the operations of officers of the law.

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