

"One Big Union": The Dream, the Reality, the History The IWW and a Century of Radical Labor Activism, 1905-2005

Conference and Celebration May 7, 2005

2005 marks one hundred years since the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World ("The Wobblies"), a profound event in American labor and radical history -- indeed in American history -- and a point from which it is possible to trace the fortunes and misfortunes of progressive and left politics in America for the rest of the century. This conference brings together scholars, actors, artists, and worker-activists, for dialogue and reflection on the following questions: What forces produced this extraordinary dream of a unified, indeed global movement of workers for radical social change -- of bringing men and women across industries, cultures and languages into "One Big Union"? Who were these visionaries and what were their specific strategies? What were the movement's successes and failures? Where is it now? What is the history of the IWW in New Jersey? What are the legacies and traditions of the IWW that matter for working people today? By answering these questions collectively our goal is to better understand what light present and past shed on one another.

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey May Day Committee, Rutgers University-Newark Department of History, Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, American Social History Project (CUNY), Spirit of the Arts Foundation, American Labor Museum/Botto House, and the Malia Collective of Italian American Women.

Conference Program – Saturday May 7, 2005

All conference workshops and panels will be held at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University, Newark Campus, 350 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ (see below for directions).

8:30-9:00

Coffee & Registration (attendance is free; \$15 suggested donation to cover lunch and refreshments)

Keynote Session: "One Big Union" – The History and Legacy of the IWW 9:00-10:30

Rosalyn Baxandall, American Studies/Media and Communications, SUNY-Old Westbury
Steve Golin, History Department, Bloomfield College
Joyce Kornbluh, Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Jeffrey Perry, independent scholar, author of *A Hubert Harrison Reader*

Moderated by Jennifer Guglielmo, History Department, Smith College

Morning Workshops – The Tactical IWW: Action/Reaction 10:45-12:00

Workshop 1: The Politics of Organizing Moderated by Jeffrey Perry

"Masculinism and Anti-Labor Violence in the McKees Rocks Steel Strike of 1909:
Police, Detective Agencies, Strikers and the IWW"
Ivy Melissa Klenetsky, History Department, New York University

"Carlo Tresca and the IWW"
Nunzio Pernicone, History Department, Drexel University

Workshop 2: The Politics of Paterson: The Great Strike Moderated by Steve Golin

"Enacting and Remembering the Paterson Pageant"
Francis Shor, Interdisciplinary Studies, Wayne State University

"We Thought We Were Going to Change the World": Women's Activism in the
Paterson Silk Strike of 1913
Anne F. Mattina, Department of Communication, Stonehill College

"Down on 'the Farm': The Greenwich Village Intelligentsia and the
Paterson Silk Strike of 1913"
Mark Noon, English Department, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Workshop 3: The Politics of Representation
Moderated by Joyce Kornbluh

"Unraveling the Mystery of Paterson's Italian Anarchist Community
in the Wake of the Red Scare"
Salvatore Salerno, Sociology Department, Ridgewater College

American Social History Project at the City University of New York-Graduate Center

LUNCH 12:15-1:15

Afternoon Workshops – The IWW and Radical Culture: Telling It/Selling It
1:30-2:45

Workshop 1: Writing It: Print, Poetry, and the Poetics of Radicalism

Moderated by Flavia Alaya, writer & retired professor of Cultural History, Ramapo College

"Italian Immigrant Radicals and the Poetics of the IWW"
Marcella Bencivenni, History Department, Hostos Community College

"Living the Revolution: Italian Immigrant Women's Anarchist Feminist
Cultural Work in New Jersey, 1890-1919"
Jennifer Guglielmo, Department of History, Smith College

"Creative Tactics: Dramatic Sketches from the Pages of *The One Big Union Monthly*"
Carmelina Cartei, Theatre Department, CUNY Graduate Center & the Theater of the
Oppressed Laboratory

Workshop 2: Singing It: The Music of Protest & Labor

Moderated by Paul Buhle, Department of American Civilization, Brown University

"Workers of the World Awaken': Joe Hill's Protest Songs"
Joanna M. Daxell, English Department, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec

"Man of Many Trades and Truths: The Evolution of a Labor Radical – Ralph Hosea
Chaplin"
John B. Namnoum, Education Department, University of Illinois at Chicago

"Singing of Heaven Above, Singing of Hell Right Here: Songs of the Salvation Army and
IWW as Comparative Ideological Texts"
Stephen N. Sanfilippo, History Department, SUNY at Stony Brook

Workshop 3: Taking It on the Road: The Wobblies Here and Beyond

Moderated by Nunzio Pernicone

"Let Americanism Rule": The Industrial Workers of the World
and the Mesabi Range Miner's Strike of 1916"
David LaVigne, Department of History, University of Minnesota

"A Country Considered to be Free" - William Trautmann and the New Zealand IWW"
Mark Derby, researcher/writer with Waitangi Tribunal, Wellington, New Zealand

"The IWW in International Perspective: Dilemmas of Internationalism"
Wayne Thorpe, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Intermezzo: Performance by Phyllis Capello aka The Ukulele Lady
3:00-3:30

Afternoon Plenary – United in Difference? Organizing for Now, Organizing for the Future
3:45-5:00

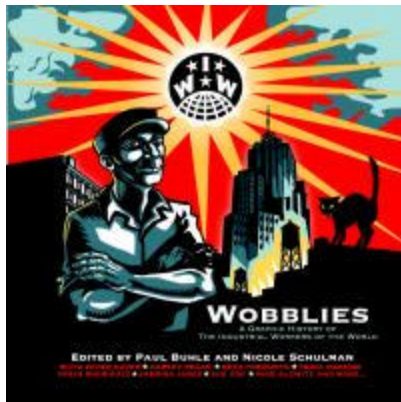
Vermont Workers Center
Garment Workers Solidarity Center
International Longshoremen's Association
Committee for Welfare and Social Progress
Industrial Workers of the World

Moderated by Jeannette Gabriel, History Department, CUNY
Simultaneous translation from English to Spanish

Songs for a Radical Century: Closing Songfest with the Solidarity Singers
5:00-5:30

**** Book exhibits (Charles H. Kerr, Verso, and other presses) and The Traveling Wobbly Show, an art exhibit, will also be on display in the Robeson Center. See www.wobblyshow.org for more info.**

Closing Celebration and Book Party, Saturday May 7 at 6:30pm



Please join us for the New York City launch of *Wobblies: A Graphic History*, with co-editor Paul Buhle (Verso, 2005). The gathering begins at 6:30pm, at the historic Chumley's Bar, 86 Bedford Street, in the West Village, Manhattan – a center of IWW organizing in New York City during the heyday of the organization. For more information on *Wobblies* go to www.versobooks.com. Subway: 1, 9 to Christopher Street.

/HOW TO GET TO RUTGERS-NEWARK

For info on mass transit see <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/masstransit/>

BY PLANE

The campus is just a 15-minute car ride from Newark Liberty International Airport, and now you can take the new air train from the airport to Newark Penn Station (See By Newark City Subway).

BY RAIL

From Harrison, Jersey City, Hoboken, NYC:

PATH to Penn Station, Newark

From NYC and South:

AMTRAK, NJT and PATH to Penn Station, Newark

New Jersey Transit (NJT) Information 1-800-772-2222

BY CAR

Via Route 280 (From West)

At Newark/Harrison split, follow signs for Harrison to Exit 14 (King Blvd). At bottom of ramp, turn right onto King Blvd. Continue for 4 1/2 blocks to campus.

Via Route 280 (From East)

Take Exit 14B (King Blvd). At bottom of ramp, turn left, following signs for Rutgers. At King Blvd turn left and continue for 4 1/2 blocks to campus.

Via Garden State Parkway

Take Exit 145 and proceed to Route 280 toward Newark-Harrison. Then follow Route 280 (From West) above.

Via NJ Turnpike

Take exit 15W (West) to Route 280 (West). Then follow Route 280 (From East) above.

Via Route 21 (McCarter Highway)

Turn west on Raymond Blvd and continue to Washington St. Turn right (North) on Washington St. to Bleeker St. then left to King Blvd.

BY BUS

NJT serves Union, Essex, Morris, Passaic, Bergen and Hudson counties and NYC to Newark.

BY NEWARK CITY SUBWAY

Service between Penn Station, Newark and Belleville border. Subway makes 11 stops; Washington St. station is one block from campus.

WHERE TO STAY

Robert Treat Hotel www.RTHotel.com 973.622.1000

Hilton Gateway www.newarkgateway.hilton.com 973.622.5000

Both the Robert Treat and Hilton Gateway are a short walk from campus, and are near all downtown attractions. We have reserved a group of rooms, discounted to the Rutgers rate at \$95 per night at the Robert Treat Hotel. They provide a shuttle bus to and from the airport at no extra charge, and a shuttle bus to the Newark-Penn Station. *These rooms must be reserved by APRIL 15 to receive the discounted rate.* The Hilton also has a Courtesy Bus from the Newark Airport. Call them for information.

WHAT TO DO

See <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/visitors/> for info on the cultural life of Newark