Double Take Webinar Series

“Why Was This Picture Made?”

Welcome! We’ll get started at 4PM ET.
Welcome! We’re glad you’re here! Use the chat box to introduce yourselves. Let us know:

- Your first name
- Where you’re joining us from
Double Take Webinar Series, Part 2: “Why Was This Picture Made?”

Sara W. Duke
Curator, Popular & Applied Graphic Art
Prints & Photographs Reading Room – Madison Building
Why Was This Picture Made?

- What type of picture is it?
- What does it show?
- What is it about?
- Who made the picture? When did they make it?
What does it show?
What is it about?
The BOSTONIANS in DISTRESS.

London, Printed for R. Sayer & J. Bennett, Map & Printsellers, N°53 Fleet Street, as the Act directs, 19 Nov. 1774.

Who made the picture?
Who was the audience?

- James Gillray, *Very slippy-weather.*
- London: Publish'd by H. Humphrey,
- 1808 February 10th.
- [https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97517792/](https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97517792/)
What didn’t the intended audience know?

News of the First Continental Congress September 1774 meeting didn’t reach London until 1775

The Continental Congress established a boycott of British goods and established local committees to enforce it

A group of people started to call themselves Loyalists

Radicals, including the Sons of Liberty and other Patriot groups were increasingly unified

Parliament’s refusal to negotiate with any of the diplomats sent by the colonies made war increasingly inevitable
What does it show?
Behold the Ardour of my Sons, and let not their brave Actions be buried in Oblivion.
The conduct of those my degenerate Sons, will break my Heart.

Britannia, why so much despised?
I am ready to die with grief and resentment, my hopes of pretence is lost in vain.

The People have discovered our design to divide them, we shall never be able to regain their confidence.

The Bostonians, they have an agreed means of frustrating our design.

I would now make a virtue of necessity, we have no other way of gaining against landing the Tea.

Some of our Shays were all agreeable, with the Providence who are ready demur.
In the Aftermath of the Boston Tea Party: British and American Perspectives
December 13, 2019 by Melissa Lindberg

The following is a guest post by Sara W. Duke, Curator of Popular and Applied Graphic Arts, Prints and Photographs Division.

As a curator of historical prints, one of the first questions I ask myself is, "Why does this print exist?" It is an essential question to ask when trying to use pictures to explain the past.

Take, for example, the Boston Tea Party, which occurred when angry colonists, dressed as American Indians, destroyed 342 chests of tea on December 16, 1773 to protest recent tax hikes imposed by the British Parliament. For nearly a century, the only contemporary depictions of the reaction to the Boston Tea Party that the Library of Congress had to offer researchers were those created in England for a British audience. An example is the mezzotint print attributed to Philip Dawe, "The Bostonians in Distress," which was published in London in the wake of the Intolerable Acts, which the British Parliament passed to punish Boston.

Ask-a-Librarian (Prints & Photographs) - https://ask.loc.gov/prints-photographs/

Prints & Photographs Online Catalog - https://www.loc.gov/pictures/
Thank you!

Questions?

Sara W. Duke
Curator, Popular & Applied Graphic Art