



Highlights

Collection Update for December 2020

51,017 new items were added in December

Hosted

- Boston Public Library - Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection (11 items)*

Harvested

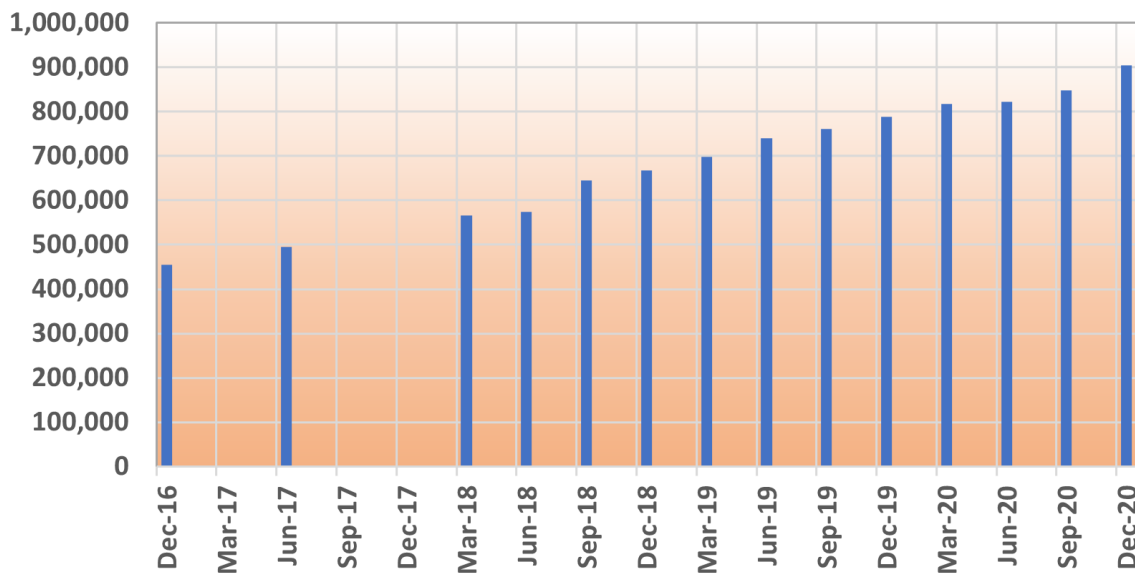
- Historic New England - 12 new collections; 51,007 new items**

* items added to existing collection ** re-harvest

176,054 Item views 904,607 Total item-level records 350,720 Total hosted items

Count up to 1 Million Items!!!

Digital Commonwealth is fast approaching having one million hosted and harvested items, reaching almost 905 thousand items in December. The collection volume has doubled in four years...when do you think we'll reach the million item mark?



Thank you to the Northeast Document Conservation Center for being a Conference Sponsor!



The Politics of Collections



Digital Commonwealth 2021 Conference

Online on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 9am-4pm

The Conference Committee has developed a wonderful program and lineup of distinguished speakers from all over the US for this year's conference with discussions and presentations focused around the theme of the Politics of Collections. The schedule for the day is as follows (but may be subject to minor changes before April). The session abstracts and speaker bios can be viewed from the conference web page at the button below, or from the links in the following text.

[View Conference Web Page](#)

9:00-9:05am Welcome

9:05-9:15am Digital Commonwealth President's Address

9:15-10:15am PANEL A

"Managing the Competing Forces of Agency, Equity and Privacy in Archival Practice"

Richard Chabran, REFORMA, Distinguished Librarian - University of CA

Christine Anne George, J.D., Assistant Director for Faculty & Scholarly Services, Cardozo School of Law Library

Natalie Milbrodt, Director of Metadata Services Division, Queens Public Library, NY

10:15-10:30am Massachusetts Library System

10:30-10:45am Break

10:45-11:45am KEYNOTE ADDRESS, Live from Los Angeles

"Politics, Power, Ethics, and Inclusion: A Call to Action to Reframe Library Practices?"

Ginny Steel, University Librarian, UCLA

11:45-12:15pm GUEST SPEAKER

"Digital Public Library of America: Equity, Inclusion in 2021"

John Bracken, Executive Director, DPLA

12:15-1:00pm Lunch Meet Ups in Breakout Rooms

1:00-1:30pm "Digital Commonwealth Repository Systems Update:

Looking Back, Looking Ahead"

Eben English, Boston Public Library

1:30-1:45pm "Results from Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access

Survey of DC Member Institutions"

Justin Snow, President, Digital Commonwealth

1:45-2:45pm PANEL B

"Towards Blackness: Strategies and Approaches in Improving Digital Collections"

Micha Broadnax, Project Manager for the Black Teacher Archives

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, President Black Caucus of ALA, Associate Director of School Support & Outreach, NY Public Library

Jaccavrie McNeeley, Digital Services Librarian at Watertown Free Public Library

2:45-3:00pm Break

3:00-4:00pm PANEL C

"The Challenges of Non English Language Collections"

Roberta Dougherty, Librarian for Middle East Studies, Yale University Library

Amber Kanner Clooney, Web Developer & Digital Projects Librarian, Yiddish Book Center, Northampton, MA

Additional speaker, TBA

4:00pm Closing Remarks

Registration will be \$10 for individuals from Digital Commonwealth member organizations; \$20 for non-members. Not sure if your organization is a member.... check [here](#).

[Register for 2021 Annual Conference](#)

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND ZOOM INFORMATION...

Please make sure that you update Zoom to the latest version on the computer you'll be using to join us for the conference, so that you'll be able to assign yourself to a breakout room during lunch and meet up with old and maybe some new friends!

You will be registering through the Digital Commonwealth Membership & Programming website. We will send you your unique Zoom login information approximately 1 week before the conference date.

"Expanding Your Digital Horizons"

Online Event Series

February 17 2021, 1-2pm

"Part I - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Case That Will Not Die"

March 9, 2021, 1-2pm

"Part II - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Impact on Art and Literature"



Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrant anarchists who were controversially convicted of murdering a guard and a paymaster during the April 15, 1920, armed robbery of the Slater and Morrill Shoe Company in Braintree, Massachusetts. Seven years later, they were electrocuted in the electric chair at Charlestown State Prison.

Anti-immigrant, and anti-Anarchist bias appeared to have heavily influenced the verdict. A series of appeals followed, funded largely by the private Sacco and Vanzetti Defense Committee. All appeals were denied by trial judge Webster Thayer and also later denied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. By 1926, the case had drawn worldwide attention. As details of the trial and the men's suspected innocence became known, Sacco and Vanzetti became the center of one of the largest causes célèbres in modern history. In 1927, protests on their behalf were held in many major cities throughout the world.

Celebrated writers, artists, and academics pleaded for their pardon or for a new trial. Harvard law professor and future Supreme Court justice Felix Frankfurter argued for their innocence. Responding to a massive influx of telegrams urging their pardon, Massachusetts governor Alvan T. Fuller appointed a three-man commission to investigate the case. After weeks of secret deliberation that included interviews with the judge, lawyers, and several witnesses, the commission upheld the verdict. Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in the electric chair just after midnight on August 23, 1927. Subsequent riots destroyed property in Paris, London, and other cities.

On the 50th anniversary of the executions in 1977, MA Governor Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted and that "any disgrace should be forever removed from their names".

In Part I of his two part presentation, Justice Agnes will explore how the biases of this trial and social status of the accused are relevant today. In Part II, he will discuss the body of art, literature, music and movies that has been inspired by the impassioned reactions to their plight.

Peter W. Agnes, Jr. grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts. He graduated *cum laude* from Boston University in 1972 and from Suffolk University Law School, *cum laude*, in 1975. He became a law clerk to New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice Edward Lampron in 1975. He then served as an Assistant District Attorney, first in Middlesex County where he became Chief of the Appellate Division, and then in Norfolk County, from 1976 through 1982. From 1986 to 1989 he was both the Assistant Secretary for Public Safety and Acting Director of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council and then served as Chief of Operations for Governor Michael Dukakis until 1991. Judge Agnes is very active as an educator for both the courts and the bar, assisting organizations like the Flaschner Judicial Institute, MCLE, CPCS and various bar associations. He has also taught at the Massachusetts School of Law as an adjunct professor for the last 20 years. Judge Agnes was appointed to the Appeals Court by Governor Deval Patrick in 2011. In 2017, he was appointed the chair of the SJC Committee on Archives and Records Conservation. One of that committee's recommendations led to an agreement between the SJC and the Secretary of the Commonwealth which enables the SJC to store the judiciary's most historic permanent paper records in vault space at the state archives. In 2019, Justice Agnes was appointed chair of the SJC Advisory Committee on Archives and Records. The SJC's Archives hold an extensive collection of documents relating to the Sacco-Vanzetti case. Aware that the Boston Public Library and Digital Commonwealth had already digitized their own extensive holdings on the case, Judge Agnes wanted the SJC's materials to be digitized and also held by Digital Commonwealth. Digitization of the SJC's materials was recently completed. Judge Agnes had planned to hold a conference on Sacco-Vanzetti in 2021, but unfortunately the event had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Digital Commonwealth is honored that he has agreed to make these two presentations.

There is no charge for these events, but registration is required.

[Register for "Part I - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Case that Will Not Die"](#)

[Register for "Part II - Sacco-Vanzetti: The Impact on Art and Literature"](#)

Member News

Welcome New Members!
Harvard Historical Society

Welcome Back Returning Members!

Alan Karass
Eastern Nazarene College
Haverhill Public Library
Historical Society of Old Yarmouth
Mashpee Public Library
Mount Washington Historical Society
New Bedford Whaling Museum
Sharon Public Library
Town of Concord Archives
Watertown Free Public Library
Worcester Public Library
Young Men's Library Association

Not a member? [Join here](#)

Not eligible to be an institutional member?
Become a Friend of Digital Commonwealth for \$35/year!
[Make a tax-deductible donation to Digital Commonwealth](#)



**Wishing everyone
a happy and healthy
2021!**

Digital Commonwealth



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[Digital Commonwealth BLM Statement](#)