A collection of primary resources—historical documents, literary texts, and works of art—thematicaly organized with notes and discussion questions

**Resources by Genre**

*Each genre is ordered by Theme: THE AGE, MODERNITY, MACHINE, PROSPERITY, DIVISION.*

External sites are noted in small caps.

**COLLECTIONS: CONTEMPORARY COMMENTARY**

- **THE AGE**
  - Modern Youth
  - Modern Woman
  - Modern Democracy
  - Modern Faith
  - Modern City: The Skyscraper

- **MODERNITY**
  - THE AGE 1: “The Age”
  - MODERNITY 2: Modern Youth
  - MODERNITY 3: Modern Democracy
  - MODERNITY 4: Modern Faith
  - MODERNITY 5: Modern City: The Skyscraper

- **MACHINE**
  - MACHINE 1: “Machine Age”
  - MACHINE 2: Automobile
  - MACHINE 3: Radio

- **PROSPERITY**
  - PROSPERITY 1: “Age of Prosperity”
  - PROSPERITY 2: Business
  - PROSPERITY 3: Consumerism
  - PROSPERITY 4: Crash

- **DIVISIONS**
  - DIVISIONS 1: Ku Klux Klan
  - DIVISIONS 2: Black & White
  - DIVISIONS 3: City & Town
  - DIVISIONS 5: Religion & Science
  - DIVISIONS 6: Labor & Capital
  - DIVISIONS 7: Native & Foreign
  - DIVISIONS 8: “Reds” & “Americans”

**POLITICAL CARTOON COLLECTIONS**

- **THE AGE**
  - Chicago Tribune political cartoons: 24 cartoons (two per year, 1918-1929)

- **PROSPERITY**
  - “Age of Prosperity”: 12 cartoons
  - Crash: 12 cartoons
  - Ku Klux Klan: 16 cartoons
  - Black & White: 18 cartoons
  - Wets & Drys: 8 cartoons
  - Labor & Capital: 14 cartoons
  - Native & Foreign: 6 cartoons
  - “Reds” & “Americans”: 8 cartoons

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* Most texts in Becoming Modern are excerpted. Full-text documents are so noted in the section headnotes.
NONFICTION: ESSAYS / PERIODICAL ARTICLES / BOOK SELECTIONS
These texts are presented as individual resources for study in the collection. Other nonfiction works are represented in the collections of contemporary commentary.

THE AGE 2
- Frederick Lewis Allen, *Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the Nineteen Twenties*, 1931, selections

MODERNITY 5

MACHINE 3
- Will Rogers on traffic safety, syndicated column, April 4, 1926

MACHINE 4
- On “the phenomenon of Lindbergh,” appendix by Fitzhugh Green in Lindbergh’s memoir, “We,” 1927

MACHINE 6

PROSPERITY 2
- Bruce Barton, *The Man Nobody Knows: A Discovery of the Real Jesus*, 1925, excerpts

PROSPERITY 3
- Will Rogers on advertising slogans, syndicated column, April 12, 1925

PROSPERITY 5
- American Federation of Labor, *Letters to a Bishop*, correspondence between Samuel Gompers and Bishop William Quayle (Methodist Episcopal Church), 1920, excerpts
- American Federation of Labor, *The Challenge Accepted—Labor Will Not Be Outlawed or Enslaved*, Declaration of the Conference of Representatives of National and International Trade Unions, 1921, excerpts

PROSPERITY 6
- 1919 Seattle General Strike: coverage from labor and general distribution newspapers, excerpts

DIVISIONS 2
- Clarence Darrow, *The Story of My Life*, 1932, on the Ossian Sweet trials, 1925-26

DIVISIONS 4
- “Five Years of Prohibition and Its Results,” *The North American Review*, summer & fall, 1925, excerpts

- Nonfiction works excerpted in several collections of contemporary commentary include:
  - Frederick Lewis Allen, *Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the Nineteen Twenties*, 1931
  - Stuart Chase, *Prosperity: Fact or Myth?*, 1929
  - Reinhold Niebuhr, *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*, 1920
  - Felix Graf von Luckner, *Seeteufel erobert Amerika [Sea Devil Conquers America]*, 1928

FICTION: NOVELS / SHORT STORIES / PLAYS / POETRY
These texts are presented as individual resources for study in the collection. Other fiction works are represented in the collections of contemporary commentary.

MODERNITY 1
- *The Manhattan Transfer*, novel, 1924

MODERNITY 2
- Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*, novel, 1920: Carol Kennicott in Washington, DC

MODERNITY 5
- Robert Frost, “A Brook in the City,” 1921
- Hart Crane, “To Brooklyn Bridge,” introductory poem to *The Bridge*, 1930

PROSPERITY 6
- Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*, novel, 1922: the labor strike

DIVISIONS 2
- Kern & Hammerstein, *Show Boat*, musical drama, 1927: miscegenation scene

DIVISIONS 3
- Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*, novel, 1920: Carol Kennicott in Washington, DC
- Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*, novel, 1922: Babbitt's booster speech on the midwestern city of Zenith

DIVISIONS 8

CARTOONS / COMIC STRIPS / POSTERS

THE AGE 4
- New Yorker cartoons (13), 1925-1929

THE AGE 7
- New York City subway posters, 20, 1918-1931 (Interborough Rapid Transit Corp.)

MODERNITY 2
### VISUAL ART

#### MODERNITY 6
- Charles Sheeler, *Skyscrapers*, oil on canvas, 1922
- Edward Steichen, *Sunday Night, 40th Street*, gelatin silver print, ca. 1925
- Georgia O'Keeffe, *City Night*, oil on canvas, 1926
- Edward Hopper, *From Williamsburg Bridge*, 1928
- Walker Evans, *Brooklyn Bridge*, gelatin silver print, 1929
- Martin Lewis, *Glow of the City*, drypoint on paper, 1929
- Bertram Hartman, *Trinity Church and Wall Street*, oil on canvas, 1929
- Florine Stettheimer, *The Cathedrals of Broadway*, 1929

[Metropolitan Museum of Art]

#### MACHINE 1
- Charles Demuth, *My Egypt*, oil on fiberboard, 1927

[ART BEYOND SIGHT]

#### MACHINE 2
- Charles Sheeler: works depicting factory/industrial landscapes
  - *River Rouge industrial complex (Ford)*, Detroit, photographs, 1927
  - *American Landscape*, oil on canvas, 1930
  - *Classic Landscape*, oil on canvas, 1931
  - *River Rouge Plant*, oil on canvas, 1932

[DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS]

#### MACHINE 4
- Stanton Macdonald-Wright, *Aeroplane Synchrony in Yellow-Orange*, oil on canvas, 1920
- Elsie Driggs, *Aeroplane*, oil on canvas, 1928

[Metropolitan Museum of Art]

[Library of Congress]

#### PROSPERITY 3
- Florine Stettheimer, *The Cathedrals of Fifth Avenue*, oil on canvas, 1931

[Metropolitan Museum of Art]

#### PROSPERITY 4
- James N. Rosenberg, *Oct. 29 Dies Irae (Day of Wrath)*, lithograph, October 29, 1929 (in collection of contemporary commentary)

[Library of Congress]

#### DIVISIONS 2
- Aaron Douglas, *Charleston*, gouache, ca. 1928

[North Carolina Museum of Art]

#### DIVISIONS 4
- Edward Hopper, *The Bootleggers*, oil on canvas, 1925

[CURRIER MUSEUM OF ART]

### FILMS / NEWSREELS / ANIMATED CARTOONS

#### THE AGE 5
- Felix the Cat silent animated cartoons (8), 1922-1927

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE/NHC]

#### THE AGE 6
- Detroit News Pictorials, silent newsreels (30), 1923-1928

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE]

#### MODERNITY 1
- *The Flapper*, silent film, 1920
- *Our Dancing Daughters*, silent film, 1928 (three clips)
- *Our Modern Maidens*, silent film, 1929 (three clips)
- "Are Women’s Sports Too Strenuous?" silent newsreel, 1925

[BRAZILIAN PATHÉ NEWS]

#### MODERNITY 5
- Newsreels (silent)
  - "Old and New Detroit," 1923
  - "905 Feet High," 1929

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE]

#### MODERNITY 7
- *Manhatta*, silent art film by Charles Sheeler & Paul Strand, 1921
  - Intertitles text from Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
- *Skyscraper Symphony*, silent art film by Robert Florey, 1929
- *The Crowd*, Hollywood silent film, 1928 (opening sequence)
- *Cockeyed*, special-effects silent newsreel, ca. 1925 (clip)
- "The City of Skyscrapers," silent newsreel, early 1920s

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE]

#### MACHINE 2
- *A Tour thru the Rouge Plants*, silent film, ca. 1932
  - *The Source of the Ford Car*, silent film, ca. 1932

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE]

#### MACHINE 3
- *Wheels of Progress*, silent film, U.S. Bureau of Roads, ca. 1927
  - Newsreels (silent)
  - "Motorists try brakes for police department," 1927
  - "Had your automobile brakes tested yet?" 1928

[INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE]

#### MACHINE 4
- Newsreels (silent/sound): aviation innovations, 1923-1930 (7)
- Felix the Cat, *The Non-Stop Fright*, silent animated cartoon, 1927
- Mickey Mouse, *Plane Crazy*, sound animated cartoon, 1928
  - DISNEY ANIMATION/YOUTUBE

#### MACHINE 5
- *La Bohème*, silent live-action film, 1926 (clip)
- *Show Girl in Hollywood*, sound live-action film, 1930 (clip)

[WARNER BROS.]
| PROSPERITY 3 | Theater commercials (silent), 1920s: flour, hand cleaner, refrigerator | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS |
| PROSPERITY 4 | American Federation of Labor, Labor’s Reward, silent film, 1925 (clip) | NATL. FILM PRESERVATION FOUND. |
| PROSPERITY 5 | Mutt & Jeff, On Strike, silent animated cartoon, 1920 | NATL. FILM PRESERVATION FOUND. |
| PROSPERITY 5 | Felix the Cat, On Strike, silent animated cartoon, 1923 | INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE |
| DIVISIONS 1 | Newsreel (silent): Klan parade, Washington, DC, August 1925 | BRITISH PATHÉ NEWS |
| DIVISIONS 2 | Oscar Micheaux, Within Our Gates, silent film drama, 1920 | INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE |
| DIVISIONS 4 | Newsreels (sound) | BRITISH PATHÉ NEWS |
| DIVISIONS 5 | “The Dodgers! A Prohibition Sidelight from Buffalo,” 1931 | |
| DIVISIONS 5 | “Someone Is Going Short of Christmas Spirits!” 1932 | |
| DIVISIONS 5 | Felix the Cat, Felix Doubles for Darwin, silent animated cartoon, 1924 | INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE |
| DIVISIONS 8 | Uncle Sam and the Bolsheviki-IWW Rat, silent animated cartoon, 1919 | NATL. FILM PRESERVATION FOUND. |
| DIVISIONS 8 | Felix the Cat, All Puzzled, silent animated cartoon, 1925 | INTERNET MOVING PICTURE ARCHIVE |

### RADIO BROADCASTS / SOUND RECORDINGS

| MACHINE 3 | Will Rogers, address to traffic chiefs, June 2, 1923 | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS |
| MACHINE 5 | WLS Chicago, WLS Showboat, the "Floating Palace of Wonder," radio broadcast, ca. 1925 (with transcript) | |
| DIVISIONS 1 | Will Rogers, “Timely Topics,” humor monologue, 1923 | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS |
| DIVISIONS 8 | Political addresses on “Americanism,” 1920, recordings, with transcripts | LIBRARY OF CONGRESS |
| DIVISIONS 8 | Franklin D. Roosevelt (Democratic Party) | |
| DIVISIONS 8 | Leonard Wood (Republican Party) | |