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“Tramp” Bibliography

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“TRAMP” BIBLIOGRAPHY
alpha, from Poole's Index & Reader's Guide

“Amateur Hobo Finds the Road Not So Bad,” Literary Digest 97:63-7 (9 June 1928).
Criminology, pp. 290-312, August 1, 1923.


Benson, Benjamin. Hoboes of America: Sensational Life Story and Epic of Life on the Road. 1942.

Benson, Benjamin. 500,000 Miles Without a Dollar. New York, 1942. A version appeared as "How To Go To California Without a Dollar" in the February 1937 issue of Hobo News.


“All Breakfast, Bedroom and Bath in the Subway,” Literary Digest 101:54-6 (8 June 1929).

Brewer, W. H. "What Shall We Do With Tramps?" New Englander, p. 521, 1878.


“Casual Class,” Lend a Hand 5:75.


**“Chicago: Hobo Capital of America,” il Survey 50:287-90 (1 June 1923).


Conyngton, M. “Homeless Man,” How to Help 56-76.


“Criminal Tramps,” Spectator (London) 80:41-2 (8 January 1898); same Living Age 216:468-71 (12 February 1898); reply C.H. Fox Spectator 80:200 (5 February 1898).


“Do You Give the Tramp a Ride?” Sunset 54:15 (May 1925).


“Drawbacks of Being a Knight of the Road,” Literary Digest 53:1281+ (11 November 1916).


Evans, B. “Demos,” Atlantic 154:314-17 (September 1934).

“Farm Colony for Tramps,” Independent 71:269-70 (3 August 1911).


Fox, R.M. “Rolling Stones,” *19th Century* 107:846-54 (June 1930).


"Gentle Art of Hoboing as Practised by an Artist,” *Literary Digest* 70:40-3 (16 July 1921).


“Hobo Hegemony: Convention to Decide Among Rival Kings of the Road Knights,” *Literary Digest* 123:10-12 (10 April 1937).


Jackson, H. “Vagabonds,” *All Manner of Folk* 53-60.


Lescobier, Don D. “Harvesters and Hoboes in the Wheat Fields,” *Survey* 50:482-7 (1 August 1923).


Lewis, Orlando F. “National Committee on Vagrants,” *Charities* 18:342-4 (29 June 1907).


Marsh, Benjamin C. “Notes of an Amateur Wayfarer,” Charities 10:221-4 (7 March 1903).
"Millionaire Hobo is Dead,” The Christian Century, 34:1020 (20 August 1930).
March 1923).


Shaw, Clifford Robe, ed. *The Jack-Roller, A Delinquent Boy’s Own Story.* Chi, 1930
Skene, F.M.F. “Ethics of the Tramp,” *Cornhill Magazine* 77(s3 4):682-8 (May 1898); same *Living Age* 217:818-22 (18 June 1898) and *Eclectic Magazine* 131:240.
“They Also Believe in Signs: Tramps’ Ciphers,” il *School Arts Magazine* 22:546-7 (May 1923).
"This is a Primer for Hobo 'Gaycats'" *Life,* pp. 14-17, October 4, 1937.
Thompson, V. “Vagabonds of France,” il *Outing* 52:52-64 (April 1908).
“Tramping with Tramps,” *Bookman* 10:279-80 (November 1899); same *Nation* 69:321 (26 October 1899).
“Tramps’ Trades-Union,” *Chambers’s Journal* (Edinburgh) 70:661.
Webb, John N. *The Transient Unemployed; A Description and Analysis of the Transient Relief Population*. Washington, WPA, 1935.
“Woman Hobo,” *Nation* 137:143 (9 August 1933).
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Jackson, H. “Vagabonds,” All Manner of Folk 53-60.
Tascheraud, Henri. “The Art of Bumming a Meal,” American Mercury 5:183-7 (June 1925). Who to ask, who to avoid, how to ask, and why. The question’s who’s gonna read this, and why they might need a how-to primer.
Tully, Jim. “Bright Eyes,” American Mercury 5:263-9 (July 1925). Nothing about tramps per se; an evocative piece by someone who was a boy tramp about a fellow who loses his eyes, then commits suicide.
Tully, Jim. “Lion-Tamer,” American Mercury 6:142-6 (October 1925). Another evocative vignette told by a former tramp--this one about a circus performer’s death in the cage (and digs at MS and Jews).
McIntosh, K.C. “Gentlemen of the Beach,” American Mercury 6:445-50 (December 1925). [p50 The American in the tropics doesn’t “work like the Frenchman, sponge like the Briton, nor fleece like the German.” Nothing really on hoboes.]
Healy, Thomas F. “The Hobo Hits the Highroad,” American Mercury 8:334-8 (July 1926). Hobos forsake trains for autos--and some new categories emerge: yeggs (not new, but autos give them unlimited range for activities) and auto-tramps (those who live in their vehicles), with bohobos (boy hobos, usually in summer) thrown in for good measure. “the classic days of hobodom that are passing.”
Jones, Idwal. “On Public Service,” American Mercury 11:200-7 (June 1927). How he got to and worked on a public works job in TX, then took a sleeper car home.
Haardt, Sara. "Jim Tully," American Mercury, 14:82-90 (May 1928). A portrait of Tully with information on his experiences and writing, and a note of his work for Charlie Chaplin.
Tully, Jim. “Sapping Day,” American Mercury 16:399-404 (April 1929). After the death of a RR detective, some hoboes are rounded up and made to run a gauntlet in a KS town.
Milburn, George. “Poesy in the Jungles,” American Mercury 20:80-6 (May 1930). Discusses, with examples, the hobo as balladeer.
Reckless, Walter C. “Why Women Become Hoboes,” American Mercury 31:175-80 (February 1934). Multiple causation, but a case study indicates that they’re proud when they made a go of hobo life; the current ec. crisis may produce a “chronic female hobo class” despite inherent disadvantages for female hoboes. Loss of security frees them to do something they otherwise wouldn’t do.
Klein, Nicholas. "Hobo Lingo," American Speech, pp. 650-53, (September 1926). A Cincinnati lawyer lists alphabetically about 250 words and phrases with their meanings (including the origins of the word hobo) learned during 20 years’ experience with hobo cases.


Meredith, Mamie. "Waddies and Hoboes of the Old West," *American Speech*, pp. 257-60 (April 1932). From the University of Nebraska, Meredith deals briefly with NK Griggs' *Lyrics of the Lariat* (Chicago, Fleming H. Revell, 1893) and on the last page with "Hobo's Lament", a word list and explanation of life when the transcontinental railroads were being completed—along with the observation that "The Hobo is, or soon becomes, a queer type of humanity" who toils, then binges, only to repeat the cycle.

Devine, Edward Thomas. "The Shiftless and Floating City Population," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 10:149-64 (September 1897). A closely-reasoned argument for thinking of the vagrancy problem in holistic terms rather than focusing on the much smaller group of perpetual vagrants (homeless), and one that uses the new NYC system as a model.


Lewis, Orlando F. "Tramp Problem," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 40:217-27 (March 1912). Speaks of "the great social evils" of inebriety and vagrancy, but focuses on vagrancy and its eradication thorough the work of a proposed national vagrancy committee and attention to coordinate state laws and efforts to "make it disagreeable to be a tramp."

Speek, Peter Alexander. "The Psychology of Floating Workers," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, pp. 72-78 (January 1917). Speek was a Ph.D. who worked in the Legislative Reference Division of the Library of Congress and compiled this information during 1915-7. Details the downward drift of laborers at a faster rate than population growth (though admitting that there is no way to be sure that casual workers are increasing faster than the general population) through several grades of "steadiness" and postulating that cure is only available through medical treatment, but prevention through government regulation of labor conditions (particularly in seasonal industries) is cheaper and preferable.


Flynt, Josiah. "Old Boston Mary: A Remembrance," *Atlantic* 74:318-25 (September 1894). The late life and death of a female tramp, a true Gypsy, and an example of the dangers inherent in life on the road.

Flynt, Josiah. "The Children of the Road," *Atlantic Monthly* 77:58-71 (January 1896). Children go on the road by birth, necessity, enticement, or choice; they can be saved from that life by reform of the reformatories and a scientific/individualistic approach to their "care."

Flynt, Josiah. "Colony of the Unemployed," *Atlantic Monthly* 78:793-803 (December 1896). The German experiment with labor colonies as a way to help the unemployed find a place to work—unemployment results from the German mania for cities and attempt to find work in the unlikeliest places—is helpful but not a model for the US, where there's sufficient work for the willing.

anti-Montaigne screed prompted by a tramp.

“The Call of the Shirt,” *Atlantic Monthly* 99:725-8 (May 1907). A hobo teaches a journalist the joy of unsullied and unpeopled nature—and how to enjoy it—and helps him discover “the true meaning of an ancient craving.”

Lewis, Orlando F. “The American Tramp,” *Atlantic Monthly* 101:744-53 (June 1908). A sociologist’s argument (in response to “The Call of the Shirt”) that vagrancy is a national problem that requires consistency and cooperation among a variety of agencies in light of a proper perspective on this very real threat to health and safety. A hard- rather than dewy-eyed (romantic) look at the life.

Hall, James Norman. “Reminiscences of a Middle-Western School,” *Atlantic Monthly* 131:735-40 (June 1923). Remembering childhood encounters with hoboes in Prairie Hills, IA, in the 1890s, and their habit of carving their names and the dates of their arrivals on the wooden watertower there.


Whitcomb, Robert. “The New Pilgrim’s Progress; An Odyssey of the Unemployed,” *Atlantic Monthly* 147:545-54 (May 1931). A newspaperman loses his job in NY and spends 10 mos seeking another, taking what work he can find and riding the rails to FL, then CA, then back. He writes of unemployment’s human side and the hobo’s life.


“Tramping with Tramps,” *Bookman* 10:279-80 (November 1899); same *Nation* 69:321 (26 October 1899). A sympathetic review which lauds Flynt’s work as analytical but sympathetic.

London, Jack. “Rods and Gunnels,” *Bookman* 15:541-4 (August 1902). Sociologists haven’t a clue as to what true trampdom is because they talk to locals; those who could set them straight won’t. JL uses “riding the rods” as an example. Mentions Josiah Flynt several times.

“Two Tramps in England,” *Century Magazine* 50 (ns 28): 289-98 (June 1895). Two college boys spend 3 wks (2/28-3/22/93) tramping through the British Isles, relate their
experiences, and delineate the British from other tramps.


Flynt, Josiah. “The Tramp and the Railroads,” il Century Magazine 58 (ns 36):258-66 (June 1899); same Living Age 223:327. Railroads help create and foster tramps. One has recently shown that it’s not expensive to keep hoboes off the rails, and that the effort is aided by locals and results in no retaliation. All railroads should follow suit and act in concert to diminish the number of hoboes, which cannot be eliminated.


Kaempffert, Waldemar. “Criminal Communications,” il Century 105:337-46 (January 1923). A general overview of communication 1600+, much on the work of Dr. Hans Gross, founder of criminology; some vagrant signs explained, but most helpful only as background.

Mullin, Glen Hawthorne. “Adventures of a Scholar-Tramp,” Century 105:507-15, 753-9 (February, March 1923). 2-part series, the 1st relating a trip from NYC to Boston, with a side trip to Norwich, CN and bucolic experiences there, and the 2nd recollections and tales of his traveling companion and mentor “Frisco.”

Stevens, James. “Hobo’s Apology, Wherein He Disavows Being a Tramp,” Century 109:464-72 (February 1925). A former hobo talks about the true hobo (itinerant laborers whose heyday was 1890-1910 & who helped industrialize the West {RRs, mines, etc.—anything needing brawn} by providing “pioneer labor”) and distinguishes him from thieves and beggars.


“Tramps’ Trades-Union,” Chambers’s Journal (Edinburgh) 70:661.


Bradshaw, J.W. “Treatment of Tramps in Small Cities,” Charities Review (NY) 5:335; same Lend a Hand 17:266.


Marsh, Benjamin C. “Notes of an Amateur Wayfarer,” il Charities 10:221-4 (7 March 1903).


"Millionaire Hobo Is Dead," The Christian Century, 34:1020 (20 August 1930). “Obit” for Chicago millionaire-hobo James Eads How detailing his education, sympathy for unemployed and unemployable, work with group-consciousness (through International Brotherhood Welfare Association) and education (through hobo college), and his dramatization of the problem because “he gave himself with his gift.”
Skene, F.M.F. “Ethics of the Tramp,” Cornhill Magazine 77(s3 4):682-8 (May 1898); same Living Age 217:818-22 (18 June 1898) and Eclectic Magazine 131:240.
Cleaveland, Agnes M. “Tramp Herd,” Cosmopolitan 38:561-7 (March 1905).


Peabody, Francis G. “German Labor-Colonies for Tramps,” *Forum* 12:751-61 (February 1892). Evidently prompted by the similarity between the Salvation Army and preceding German Labor Colony plans, Peabody discusses the German experience and ends with five criticisms and the German “secret ingredient”—Pastor von Bodelschwingh of Bielefeld.


Rood, Henry Edward. “Tramp Problem: A Remedy,” *Forum* 25:90-4 (March 1898); reply E.L. Bailey 26:217-21 (October 1898). Mentions the Rahway (NJ) Plan as a prototype--agree (and widely publish the argument) that handouts come only after enough work (at the going rate) to pay for it: “There is nothing the tramp hates as much as work.” [applies “domino theory” and “gateway drug” concept to trampin and the downward spiral it produces.

Bailey, E.Lamar. “Tramps and Hoboes,” *Forum* 26:217 (October 1898). A former tramp (having been one “with no literary or sociological motive”) corrects Rood’s article by noting the distinctives among tramps, hoboes, vagrants and criminals, and observes that tramps cannot be saved while hoboes can.


Bunce, Frank. “I’ve Got to Take a Chance,” *Forum* 89:108-12 (February 1933). A man out of work for 2 years tells of his hobo experience and why he’s a menace to society (nothing left to lose).


Conyngton, M. “Homeless Man,” *How to Help* 56:76.


“Farm Colony for Tramps,” *Independent* 71:269-70 (3 August 1911).


“Casual Class,” *Lend a Hand* 5:75.


"This is a Primer for Hobo 'Gaycats'" *Life*, pp. 14-17, October 4, 1937. A short photo essay of “don’ts” for the aspiring hobo, done by Louis Van Dyke in candid shots--plus one grim example of the results of failure.


“Gentle Art of Hoboing as Practised by an Artist,” *Literary Digest* 70:40-3 (16 July 1921). Primarily on Australia. Mentions wanderlust, colossal nerve and a glib tongue as essential qualifications; along with “the call” one needs the personality and ability to tell a convincing story to practice the art.

Herald Tribune of Harry Franck’s unleashing a horde of “gentleman hoboes” (primarily college students finishing up) whose sole wish is to travel while spending nothing. Sykes’ observation: “If you want to try to go round the world for nothing, try it”: use a John Doe, take the money out of your pockets, and start. “Take what comes to you. Earn what you get. If you can’t stand the gaff, wire dad for funds and go back home. Don’t beg and sponge your way on friends of influence.”

“The Most Arrested American,” Literary Digest 86:50-5 (11 July 1925). Report of Lee Shippey’s recounting of Edwin Brown (rich man whose hobby is masquerading as a tramp and getting thrown into jail as a vagrant) and his adventures as published in Everybody’s. He demonstrates the need and argues successfully for municipal lodging houses.


“Breakfast, Bedroom and Bath in the Subway,” Literary Digest 101:54-6 (8 June 1929). Relates Anthony Muto’s New York Telegram report on subway vagrancy in NYC based on his 30 hours experience.

“Ladies of the Road,” Literary Digest 114:33 (13 August 1932). Ed L. Flannery in a Philadelphia Public Ledger Magazine article, talks about the “numerous women” who’re joining hobo ranks, including an AR couple. “Yes, hoboes sometimes have cash....And they are generous. Perhaps that is why they are hoboes.”

“Hobo Hegemony: Convention to Decide Among Rival Kings of the Road Knights,” il Literary Digest 123:10-12 (10 April 1937). Upcoming nat’l hobo convention in St. Louis is backdrop for discussion of various hobo organizations, competing spokesmen (Jeff Davis & “Happy Dan” O’Brien), and general information, including hobo vernacular, history, and characteristics. “Violent death has taken many on the road. P But O’Brien says lightly: ‘More men have been killed by jobs.’”

“Tramps Mediaeval and Modern,” Living Age 177:683; same Westminster 129:587.
“Criminal Tramps,” Living Age 216:468-71 (12 February 1898); same Spectator (London) 80:41-2 (8 January 1898); same; reply C.H. Fox Spectator 80:200 (5 February 1898).
Skene, F.M.F. “Ethics of the Tramp,” Living Age 217:818-22 (18 June 1898); same Cornhill Magazine 77(s3 4):682-8 (May 1898) and Eclectic Magazine 131:240.
“Habitual Tramp,” Living Age 219:295-8 (29 October 1898); same Saturday Review 86:376.

“The Disappearing Tramp,” *Nation* 84:5 (3 January 1907).

“Womam Hobo,” *Nation* 137:143 (9 August 1933).


Wilson, Edmund. “Political Headquarters,” *New Republic* 65:15-6 (19 November 1930) . Wilson spends half the article on Dan O’Brien and the hobo king’s proposed “poor people’s march on Washington,” his complaints about Tully’s *Beggars of Life*, and his unflagging work on behalf of the dispossessed.


Lewis, Orlando F. “The Vagrant and the Railroad,” *North American Review* 185:603-13 (19 July 1907). Only through public education and specified reforms (particularly cooperation between willing railroads and unwilling communities) can the problem of vagrancy be halted.


Thompson, V. “Vagabonds of France,” il *Outing* 52:52-64 (April 1908).
“Free Transportation for Tramps,” *Outlook* 74:967 (22 August 1903).
Forbes, James. "John the Yeggman," *Outlook*, 98:823-828 (12 August 1911). An article by the
Secretary of the National Association for the Prevention of Mendicancy which spends most of its time on bank- and post office-robbers (safecrackers) with some comments on behavioral characteristics of yeggs (whose “beginnings are vicious, ...operations sinister,...ambitions low, and ...end tragic”).

Forbes, James. “The Tramp; or, Caste in the Jungle,” Outlook 98:869-75 (19 August 1911). Purports to be a study of “good people” (highest class tramps) but covers it all—from luring kids to hobo justice.


“How Poughkeepsie Deals with Tramps,” Review of Reviews 37:211-2 (February 1908). How Police Chief Charles J. McCabe has cleaned up the town in 7 years (vigilant action) and to what end.


Shand, A.I.  “I Don’t Want to Be a Bum: America’s 250,000 Boy and Girl Vagabonds,” il *Scholastic* 25:11-2+ (6 October 1934).

“They Also Believe in Signs,” il *School Arts Magazine* 22:546-7 (May 1923).  A few examples of hobo signs from Jeff Davis.


Maxwell, Cliff.  “Lady Vagabonds,” *Scribner’s Magazine* 85:288-92 (March 1929). A woman can be a vagabond but not a hobo; “lady hoboes” are “an angular-bodied, flint-eyed, masculine-minded travesty upon her sex.”


“Criminal Tramps,” *Spectator (London)* 80:41-2 (8 January 1898); same *Living Age* 216:468-71 (12 February 1898); reply C.H. Fox *Spectator* 80:200 (5 February 1898).


“Do You Give the Tramp a Ride?” *Sunset* 54:15 (May 1925).


Lescohier, Don D.  “Harvesters and Hoboes in the Wheat Fields,” il *Survey* 50:482-7 (1 August 1923). 2nd of two articles based on USDA studies which pushes the need for a government employment agency to study seasonal labor fluctuations, work out employment
cycles, and induce steadier employment and a more definite place in the social order for migratory workers. Uses case studies and ends with a discussion of the IWW as labor organizers (& primary interest in socialism rather than laborer welfare).


“A Clergyman’s Study of the ‘Stranded’,” World’s Work 4:2510-5 (September 1902). A NYC clergyman analyzes, on the basis of a year’s dsample, the requests for advice and money that come his way and separates them into 6 categories.


“A Clergyman’s Study of the ‘Stranded’,” World’s Work 4:2510-5 (September 1902). A NYC clergyman analyzes, on the basis of a year’s dsample, the requests for advice and money that come his way and separates them into 6 categories.

“Tramps,” World’s Work 26:261 (July 1913). Tramps will cease to be a problem when their transportation and food supply are denied them, and then they’re caught and made to work.

Books


Benson, Benjamin. *500,000 Miles Without a Dollar*. New York, 1942. A version appeared as "How To Go To California Without a Dollar" in the February 1937 issue of *Hobo News*.


Foundation, 1936.


Sutherland, Edwin H. and Harvey J. Locke. *Twenty Thousand Homeless Men.* Chicago and Philadelphia:


Webb, John N. *The Transient Unemployed; A Description and Analysis of the Transient Relief Population*. Washington, WPA, 1935.


Treats the history of the "Wobblies" from 1905 to World War I. Shows the transition from a radical industrial union, intended to replace the A.F. of L., to a Western labor union which after 1914 was hardly more than picturesque hobo society.


Treats the response of federal and state governments and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) to the increasing numbers of migrant workers in the High Plains wheat harvests of the 1910's. Focuses on the analytical process as described by such theorists as Michel de Certeau, Paul Virilio, and Michel Foucault but supplies historical specifics including agricultural and population statistics and descriptions of migrant life and hobo jungles. Although the IWW and the government were on opposite sides of a power struggle, they pursued similar strategies for control, each claiming the wheat farming region as its own, posing as a force of order, and offering concepts of outsider versus insider. The IWW organized migrant camps, placing migrants within the concept of organized American labor unions, while the government championed farmers, placing farm
communities within the concept of nation and offering to organize migrant-harvested agriculture on the farmers' behalf.


Ck NYT listings for tramp & hobo.