

Claire Wellington, “Censorship in Comics: Debate, Diplomacy, and the Comics Code Authority” - Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Kihss, Peter. "No Harm in Horror, Comics Issuer Says". New York Times, April 22, 1954, p. 1.

<https://www.proquest.com/hnpnewyorktimes/docview/113104873/52FE7F3B0AB64BF1PQ/1?accountid=48257>.

This source is a New York Times article written in 1954 about the William Gaines hearing. It added to my understanding of the hearing and the public’s perception of the event.

“KEFAUVER: ‘...Do you think that is in good taste?’

GAINES: ‘Yes, sir; I do, for the cover of a horror comic. A cover in bad taste, for example, might be defined as holding the head a little higher so that the neck could be seen dripping blood from it and moving the body over a little further so that the neck of the body could be seen to be bloody.’

KEFAUVER: ‘You have blood coming out of her mouth.’

GAINES: ‘A little.’” Testimony of William M. Gaines, publisher, Entertaining Comics group, New York, N.Y., transcript, April 21, 1954. <http://www.thecomicbooks.com/gaines.html>.

This is a series of quotes from the online transcript of the televised William Gaines senate hearing. I used this on my Calls for Censorship page to provide evidence of what was said during the hearing.

Cover of Phantom Lady (Fox) Vol 1 #23, *DC Comics*, April, 1949, image.

This is the cover of a 1949 DC Comics' comic book starring Phantom Lady. I used it to support the first paragraph of the Calls for Censorship page.

"The average parent has no idea that every imaginable crime is described in detail in comic books" Fredric Wertham, *Seduction of the Innocent*, 174, 1954.

This is a quote from the infamous book *Seduction of the Innocent*. I used it to further highlight Fredric Wertham's opinion of comics and the common fear that comic books were a cause of juvenile delinquency.

Cover of Action Comics 1, June 1938, image,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Action_Comics_1.jpg.

This is the cover of the first ever superhero comic book, featuring Superman lifting a car. I used it to support the first paragraph on the origin story page, which mentions Superman and Action Comics.

Comics Code Authority Approval Stamp, *Comic Book Legal Defense Fund*, image,

<http://cblidf.org/comics-code-history-the-seal-of-approval/>.

The image is of the stamp put on comic books to show they were approved. I used it to add flair to my thesis page.

Fredric Wertham reading a comic book, *Oklahoma Classic Comic Book Nostalgia Convention 2009*, image, <http://oafcon2009.blogspot.com/> .

The image shows Dr. Fredric Wertham in his later years reading a comic. I used it to support the paragraph above it about Wertham himself.

“The EC Archives: Tales from the Crypt, #25”, *EC Comics*, cover, <https://www.comics.org/issue/9059/>.

Comic book cover of EC’s *Tales from the Crypt* #25. I used it to support the text surrounding it about EC comics and their darker stories.

Code of the Comics Magazine Association of America, Inc., 1954, pamphlet, 300 Park Avenue South, New York, <https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/artifact/code-comics-magazine-association-america-inc-1954>.

Pamphlet containing the Comics Code Authority rules. I drew information from this source and excerpts from it.

Merdian, Robert. "Letter Regarding Comic Book Censorship", June 22, 1954, letter, 476

Evergreen Avenue, Millvale 9, Pennsylvania,

<https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/artifact/letter-robert-merdian-regarding-comic-book-censorship-june-22-1954>.

A letter from a 14 year old in 1954. I used it to demonstrate the understated viewpoint of kids during this time and to contrast it with the letter from a concerned mother of the 1950s.

Genovar, Eugenia. "Letter Regarding Comic Book Censorship", November 24, 1953, letter, 271

St. George Street, St. Augustine, Florida,

<https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/artifact/letter-eugenia-y-genovar-regarding-comic-book-censorship-november-24-1953>.

A letter from a concerned mother in 1954. I used it to demonstrate Wertham's impact on parents of the time (she mentions she read his articles in her newspaper) and to contrast with the letter from a 14 year old kid of the 1950s.

"Crime SuspenStories #22", 1954, cover, US Capitol Visitor Center, *EC An Entertaining Comic*,

<https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/artifact/exhibit-22-crime-suspenstories-april-5-1954>.

Cover of Crime SuspenStories #22. I used it to go along with the mention of the Gaines hearing, as William Gaines was called to the stand to defend the cover.

“I am convinced that in some way or other the democratic process will assert itself and crime comic books will go, and with them all they stand for and all that sustains them.” Fredric Wertham, *The Manitoba Ensign*, Oct. 17, 1953, https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=3_f9JqYsqVQC&dat=19531017&printsec=frontpage&hl=en.

Quote from Fredric Wertham in *The Manitoba Ensign*, a Canadian newspaper. I used it to support the paragraph about Fredric Wertham and to demonstrate Wertham’s opinions and his writing style.

Secondary Sources

“With Great Power: The Stan Lee Story” *Youtube*, uploaded by Youtube Movies & Shows, 15 Oct. 2018. <https://youtu.be/Ct9VTQnPa5c>.

This is a documentary about famous comic book writer and editor Stan Lee. I used a two minute and twelve second clip of this documentary on my Long Term Impacts page.

Nyberg, Amy Kiste. “Comics Code History: The Seal of Approval.” *Comic Book Legal Defense Fund*, <http://cbldf.org/comics-code-history-the-seal-of-approval/>.

This was the first source I found. It gave me a meaningful basis for further research.

Williams, Marren. "Amazing Spider-Man Anti-Drug Story Hastened Demise of Comics Code."

Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, October 27, 2017,

<http://cblidf.org/2017/10/amazing-spider-man-anti-drug-story-hastened-demise-of-comics-code/>.

This source is about the Amazing Spider-Man anti-drug story published without the seal of approval. I used the information on the Long Term Impacts page.

Kowalski, Jesse. "Comics: Comic Books." *Illustration History*, Norman Rockwell Museum,

<https://www.illustrationhistory.org/genres/comics-comic-books>. Accessed Oct. 28, 2021.

This source is an overview of comic book history and the 'ages' of comics. The information added to my understanding of the topic.

Kannenber, Gene, Jr. "Comic Books." *Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood: In History and Society*, edited by Paula S. Fass, vol. 1, Macmillan Reference USA, 2004, pp. 219-222.

Gale In Context: U.S. History,

https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3402800117/WHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=1e4bd01e.

This source includes information about why many educators didn't like comics and what was banned. This source was useful for building the content of the Calls for Censorship page.

"Censorship." *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*, Gale, 2020. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/HXNLGL427890463/UHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=7c1e8270. Accessed Oct. 28, 2021.

This source provides the definition of 'censorship' and 'delinquents'. The information added to my understanding of the topic.

Itzkoff, Dave. "Scholar Finds Flaws in Work By Archenemy Of Comics." *New York Times*, 20 Feb. 2013, p. C1(L), <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/books/flaws-found-in-fredric-werthams-comic-book-studies.html>.

This source is an article about Fredric Wertham and his book 'Seduction of the Innocent'. This source added to my understanding of Fredric Wertham and his research.

"Fredric Wertham." *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture Online*, Gale, 2013. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/K2419201292/UHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=dd63998f.

This source is an overview of Fredric Wertham's life and his views. The information added to my understanding of this figure who is integral to my topic.

Wright, Bradford W. "EC Comics." *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture Online*, Gale, 2013. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/HTAUYG687805967/UHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=686a7da4. Accessed 28 Oct. 2021.

This source provides the background of EC comics. The information added to my understanding of EC comics and EC publisher William Gaines, both of which are integral to my topic.

Oxoby, Marc. "Comics Code Authority." *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture Online*, Gale, 2013. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/HWDAYB077712431/UHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=b1b25d8b.

This source is an overview of the Comics Code Authority. The information from this source was utilized in many pages of my website, but added to the Long Term Impacts page most.

"To Market, to Market: Comic Books in the Best of Times, the Worst of Times." *American Decades*, edited by Judith S. Baughman, et al., vol. 8: 1970-1979, Gale, 2001. *Gale In Context: World History*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3468302789/WHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=a1449c63.

This source provides an overview of many related comic book events (such as the Amazing

Spider-Man drug story) along with specific names and dates. This source was used for the building of the Long Term Impacts page and added to my understanding of the topic.

"Comic Books and Juvenile Delinquency." *American Decades*, edited by Judith S. Baughman, et al., vol. 6: 1950-1959, Gale, 2001, pp. 269-270. *Gale In Context: World History*, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3468301961/WHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=de4070b8.

This source provides more information on the presumed link between comics and juvenile delinquency. The information from this source added to my understanding of the topic and provided the J. Edgar Hoover quote.

Goodman, Walter. "'Seducing the innocent,' the sequel." *New York Times*, 8 Oct. 2000, p. WK. *Gale In Context: World History*, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A65851212/WHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=fbbc04e5.

This source provides more information on Wertham's research and why he was unhappy with the Comics Code. This source was used for the building of the Long Term Impacts page and added to my understanding of Fredric Wertham.

Wambheim, Elizabeth C. "The Dynamic Duo Then and Now: Batman and Robin as Evolving Cultural Icons." *St. Catherine University*, 1 April. 2014, pp. 17-24. https://sophia.stkate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1124&context=undergraduate_resea

[rch_symposium](#).

This source was an overview of Batman and Robin, but I specifically focused on the part of their history that included Fredric Wertham and ‘Seduction of the Innocent’. The information from this source added to my understanding of why Fredric Wertham is such an infamous figure and the impact he had on two very popular characters.

"Comics." *Violence in America*, edited by Ronald Gottesman and Richard Maxwell Brown,

Charles Scribner's Sons, 1999. *Gale In Context: World History*,

link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2350011069/WHIC?u=bpls_main&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=8fbf2756.

This source was about the connection between violence and comic books. The information from this source added to my understanding of the violence going on in the 1950s United States.

Kirsh, Steven J. and Paul V. Olczak, “The Effects of Extremely Violent Comic Books on Social

Information Processing.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence Vol. 17 No. 11*, Sage

Publications, Nov. 2002, State University of New York, Geneseo, Geneseo, NY,

<https://www.geneseo.edu/~kirsh/vita/kirsh%20olczak.pdf>.

This source is a report on an experiment conducted that was trying to find out if reading gruesome comic books resulted in negative effects in behavior. The information from

this source added to my understanding of how brains work, but ultimately didn't affect my project.

“Dr. Fredric Wertham” *Lambiek Comiclopedia*,

https://www.lambiek.net/comics/wertham_fredric.htm.

This source provides a deeper look at parts of Fredric Wertham's life, such as his earlier life and his dislike of television. The information from this source added to my understanding of this figure who is integral to my topic.