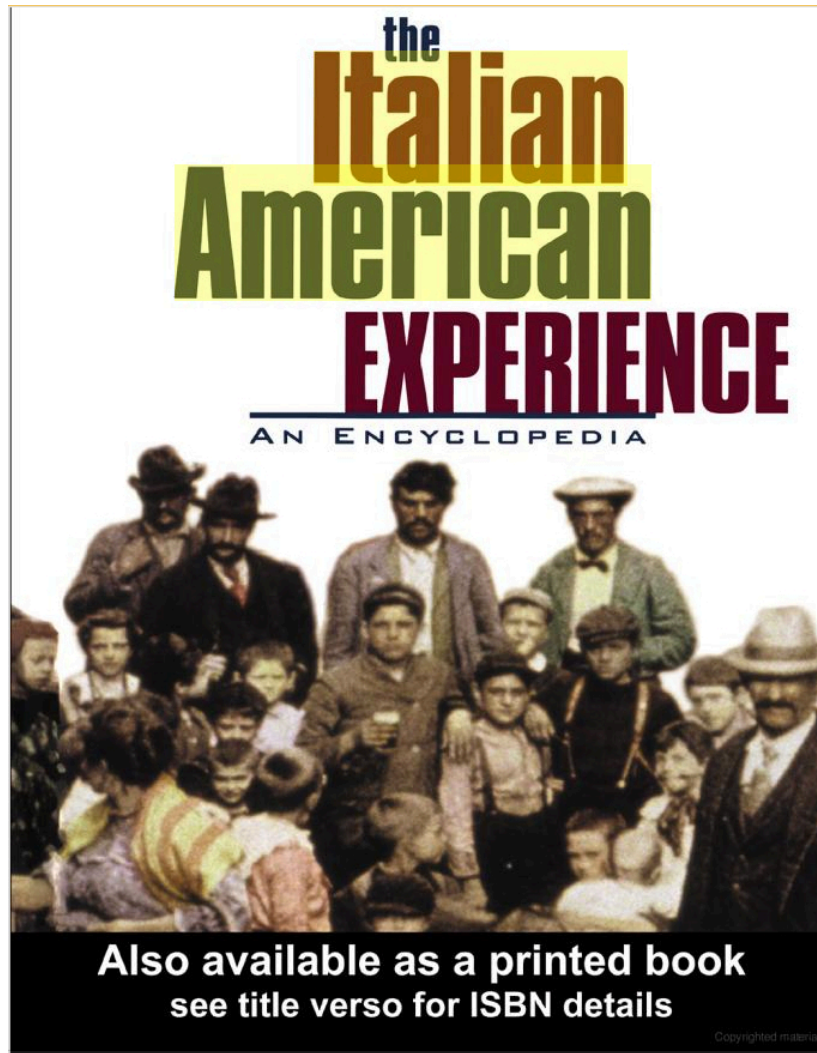


The Italian American Experience



This excerpt is taken from page 93 of *Cartoonists and Illustrators*:

Cartoonists and Illustrators

Italian Americans have been part of United States cartooning and illustration for a century and a half, either as the stereotyped butt of cartoons or caricatures or as the creators of comic art.

Italian Americans experienced their share of ridicule in the early days of cartooning. Stereotyped images of Italian Americans began appearing in cartoons by the mid-1800s, a time when ethnic groups in general were associated with recognizable peculiarities such as their native foods, dress, or pastimes. For example, the Italian American was included in famous cartoonist Thomas Nast's "Nick-Nax of All Creation," an 1851 stereotypical depiction of youth from twelve nations.

Protect Its Bandits

1891 Does Italy Want To Protect Its Bandits Among Us? - The Lesson of New Orleans.

This is an engraving by Thomas Nast, published as a Supplement to "The Illustrated American," No. 59.

The top left scene depicts Italy as a "Foreign Free Booter's Invasion;"

The top right scene depicts a policeman dumping out 'criminals' from the leg of Italy's boot;

The left scene depicts a mysterious caped Mafia man writing graffiti about Americans on a wall;

The right scene depicts a crescent-moon shape surrounding an Italian barge;

And the bottom right scene depicts a skull symbolizing disorganization.

