

## S. J. Ray Collection (SC208)

### *Introduction*

This collection contains original artwork and other materials relating to S. J. Ray, who worked as editorial cartoonist for *The Kansas City Star* from 1931 to 1963. Ray's cartoons depict a wide array of historical figures and events, including New Deal politics, World War II, and the Cold War.

### *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: Silvey Jackson Ray  
Title: S. J. Ray Collection  
Dates: 1921 – 2005  
Size: 3.2 linear feet, 3 boxes  
Collection Number: SC208

### *Donor Information*

Gift, 2016, Jennie Frederick.

### *Citation Note*

S. J. Ray Collection (SC208), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

### *Administrative Information*

Reproduction restrictions: This collection contains original artwork that may be protected under copyright law. Some items may not be photocopied due to fragile condition.

Additional form available: S. J. Ray's published political cartoons may be found in the *Kansas City Star* digital archives.

Related Collections: Additional information relating to S. J. Ray may be found in the library catalog and in the Missouri Valley Special Collections Local History Index. Related special collections include: SC30-13: S. J. Ray Cartoons and SC63 Vertical Files Special Collection. Other collections pertaining to S. J. Ray may also be found at The Truman Library (S. J. Ray Papers) and The State Historical Society of Missouri (Editorial Cartoons Collection.)

### *Biographical Sketch*

Artist, illustrator, and cartoonist Silvey Jackson (S. J. or Sil) Ray was born on a farm in Chariton County, Missouri on March 15, 1891. Though he received no formal academic training beyond grade school, he began working as an illustrator at the

*Kansas City Journal-Post* in 1913 before joining the staff at *The Kansas City Star* in 1915.

Ray's career at the *Star* was briefly interrupted when he left to serve in the United States Army from 1917 to 1919. He then studied in New York City under F. R. Gruger at the Arts Student League before resuming work in Kansas City in 1920.

In 1931, Ray became the *Star's* editorial cartoonist, and his work was featured six times per week on the editorial page. His distinctive cartoons depicted current events and politicians, and critics commended Ray for his ability to infuse his satirical caricatures with both humor and humanity. Many of Ray's political cartoons drew national attention, won awards from the U. S. Treasury department and the Freedom Foundation, and were reprinted by the U. S. State department to counter Soviet propaganda. Ray created approximately 10,000 cartoons during his 32 years as editorial cartoonist.

After his retirement in 1963, Ray retreated to his Clay County home, where he enjoyed painting rural scenes in watercolor. S. J. Ray died on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1970 at the age of 78.

### ***Scope and Content Note***

This collection contains original and published cartoons drawn by S. J. Ray for *The Kansas City Star/Times*, as well as newspaper clippings, correspondence, and other biographical materials. Ray's cartoons depict a wide array of historical figures and events from 1931 to 1963, including New Deal politics, labor unions, World War II, the Cold War and topics specific to Kansas City, such as the flood of 1951. A few items pertaining to the Donnelly Garment Company are also included in this collection. The collection is arranged into five series by type of material.

#### [Series 1: Biographical Information, 1921-2005 and n. d.](#)

This series contains miscellaneous biographical materials, including newspaper articles about S. J. Ray, his marriage certificate, personal correspondence, memorial service program, and photograph. This series is arranged by item type and therein chronologically.

#### [Series 2: Donnelly Garment Company, 1938 and n. d.](#)

This series contains materials pertaining to the Donnelly Garment Company, including a brochure and photograph of staff at a Nelly Don Christmas party. These items were collected by William and Vivian Frederick, who were employees of Nelly Don and family members of S. J. Ray.

#### [Series 3: Editorial Cartoons and Watercolors – Clippings, 1935-2005 and n. d.](#)

This series contains photocopies of *Kansas City Star/Times* clippings featuring S. J. Ray cartoons and watercolors. This series is described at the item level by title and is arranged chronologically.

[Series 4: Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1933-1943 and n. d.](#)

This series contains original editorial cartoons drawn by S. J. Ray, most of which were printed in the *Kansas City Star/Times* during World War II. This series is described at the item level and is arranged chronologically by publishing date. Undated cartoons are listed at the end of the series and arranged alphabetically by cartoon title.

[Series 5: C. K. Berryman Editorial Cartoon, 1934](#)

This series contains an original editorial cartoon by artist C. K. Berryman, a friend of S. J. Ray. The 1934 cartoon depicts Franklin D. Roosevelt and comments on New Deal Code Regulations.

*Collection Inventory***Series 1: Biographical Information, 1921-2005 and n. d.**

- f. 1 Miscellaneous, 1921-1970 and n.d.
- f. 2 New clippings and obituaries, 1963-2005

**Series 2: Donnelly Garment Company, 1938 and n. d.**

- f. 3 Donnelly Garment Company, 1938 and n.d.

**Series 3: Editorial Cartoons and Watercolors – Clippings, 1935-2005 and n. d.**

- f. 4 Editorial Cartoons and Watercolors - Clippings, 1935-2005 and n.d.
  - #1 But His Soul Goes Marching On, December 7, 1935
  - #2 Service Station on the Road to Suez, May 5, 1941
  - #3 This is the Enemy!, January 6, 1943
  - #4 A Great Friend and a Fine Artist, May 15, 1943
  - #5 He'll Get Out--Or Else, September 10, 1943
  - #6 Shepherd of the Hills, May 26, 1944
  - #7 The Fever Pitch, November 3, 1944
  - #8 And That's That--Thank Heaven!, November 6, 1944
  - #9 Now That They're Getting Cornered, December 4, 1944
  - #10 They Shall Not Pass, December 29, 1944
  - #11 Pistol Packin' Patton, December 30, 1944
  - #12 Handwriting on the Wall, March 23, 1945
  - #13 My Folks Will Miss You Too, Ernie, April 19, 1945
  - #14 Harvest Moon, April 27, 1945
  - #15 To the Seven Seas, October 27, 1945
  - #16 From Foxholes to--, November 14, 1945
  - #17 Unexpected Blizzard, November 3, 1948
  - #18 I Love a Parade!, January 18, 1949
  - #19 The Biggest Catch, August 2, 1949
  - #20 Going to the Square Dance, May 12, 1950

- #21 We'd Better Stop Laughing at an Old Joke, July 18, 1951
- #22 No One Else Could Have Filled It, December 12, 1957
- #23 He'll Find His Orbit, December 16, 1957
- #24 As The Star's Cartoonist Saw the Big News of 1957, January 1, 1958
- #25 Monty's Memoirs, October 16, 1958
- #26 Intervention, December 27, 1960
- #27 Continuing Cause of Armaments, September 27, 1961
- #28 The 1961 Session Ends, September 28, 1961
- #29 California Gold Rush, September 29, 1961
- #30 Hard to Fill, September 30, 1961
- #31 And One for the Road, June 18, 1962
- #32 The Men and Events of the Year Just Ended, January 1, 1963
- #33 Fortitude, February 12, 1963
- #34 Getting off to a Poor Start, February 13, 1963
- #35 Among Our Valentines, February 14, 1963
- #36 Light in the Jungle, February 15, 1963
- #37 Wonderful, Some Say, February 16, 1963
- #38 Not Yet Convinced, February 18, 1963
- #39 To Willy!, February 19, 1963
- #40 The U.S. Carries too Much of the Load - Lord Home, February 20, 1963
- #41 Well, Blow Me Down!, February 21, 1963
- #42 Cold War, 1777, February 22, 1963
- #43 Will They Ever Come Out Even?, February 23, 1963
- #44 Congress, 1963, March 2, 1963
- #45 And if Someone Pushes You In--?, March 4, 1963
- #46 A Good Place to Dream, March 5, 1963
- #47 What Will the Performances Be?, March 6, 1963
- #48 His Opportunity, March 7, 1963
- #49 Pardon, M'Sieur, March 8, 1963
- #50 Gordian Knot, March 9, 1963
- #51 Still the Party Line, March 12, 1963
- #52 Remembrance of Things Past, March 13, 1963
- #53 Now, Men-Shape Up!, March 14, 1963
- #54 Tea for Two, March 15, 1963
- #55 Two Weeks to Go, March 18, 1963
- #56 The Deadly Crossing, March 19, 1963
- #57 Don't Forget the Big One for Mental Health, March 21, 1963
- #58 Humpty-Dumpty Together Again?, March 22, 1963
- #59 Forecasts for Farm Programs, March 23, 1963
- #60 Tomorrow is the Day!, March 25, 1963
- #61 Peaceful Co-Existence?, March 26, 1963
- #62 After Scientific Diagnosis, March 27, 1963
- #63 Brighter Days, March 28, 1963
- #64 The Flying Frenchman, March 29, 1963
- #65 This is not the Winter of Our Discontent, March 30, 1963
- #66 A Man's Castle, April 1, 1963
- #67 The Bad News, April 2, 1963
- #68 Hot Spot, April 3, 1963

- #69 For All Our Children, April 4, 1963
- #70 A Giant Step Forward, April 5, 1963
- #71 Opening Tomorrow!, April 8, 1963
- #72 Slight Thaw at the Top, April 9, 1963
- #73 The Winner!, April 10, 1963
- #74 Cat and Mouse, April 11, 1963
- #75 In Their Country's Service, April 12, 1963
- #76 Easter 1963, April 13, 1963
- #77 Toast to Pan Americanism, April 15, 1963
- #78 On the Old Frontier, April 16, 1963
- #79 Our Turn to Carry the Ball!, April 17, 1963
- #80 Off the Ground, April 18, 1963
- #81 Another Winding?, April 23, 1963
- #82 O Sole Mio, April 24, 1963
- #83 The New Man, April 25, 1963
- #84 Written on Water, April 26, 1963
- #85 Tranquility, April 27, 1963
- #86 What's the Latest in Cuba?, April 29, 1963
- #87 Still Flying High, April 30, 1963
- #88 O Happy May Day!, May 1, 1963
- #89 He Put in his Thumb and Pulled out a Plumb, May 3, 1963
- #90 More!, May 6, 1963
- #91 Room for More, May 8, 1963
- #92 Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, May 9, 1963
- #93 How Did Things Ever Get in Such a Shape!, May 11, 1963
- #94 Thawing Time, February 28, 1965
- #95 Apple Blossom Time, May 2, 1965
- #96 The Old Swimmin' Hole, July 18, 1965
- #97 Midwestern Autumn, October 17, 1965
- #98 Snow in the Woodlands, February 13, 1966
- #99 As the Star's Cartoonists Saw the Decade, January 1, 1970
- #100 As Three Cartoonists Saw Truman, December 27, 1972
- #101 More Free Parking for Everyone, April 15, 1979
- #102 Wherever He Strikes Next, There'll Be a Hole in His Armor,  
December 22, 1991
- #103 Untitled, December 24, 1991 (1950)
- #104 Looks as if the New Leadership was Really Going to Lead, October  
10, 1999 (1933)
- #105 ??? [untitled]

#### **Series 4: Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1933-1943 and n. d.**

- f. 5 Photocopies, #1-48, 1933-1940
- f. 6 Photocopies, #49-86, 1941-1943
- f. 7 Photocopies, #87-122, n.d.
- f. 8 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1933-1936
  - #1 Left at the Barrier, September 11, 1933
  - #2 The Neglected Customers, September 16, 1933
  - #3 A Century of Progress, October 3, 1933

- #4 A Fine Time to Bring That Up Again, January 22, 1935
- #5 We're Hoping They've Just About Used Up All the Wrong Directions  
August 3, 1936
- f. 9 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1937
  - #6 We Might Learn Something From One of the Oldest Conservation  
Systems, January 27, 1937
  - #7 Perhaps it Will Keep Him in His Hole For Six Weeks, February 2,  
1937
  - #8 It's Not Entirely a Question of Belief or Disbelief in Mr. Roosevelt,  
February 23, 1937
  - #9 One of the Tougher Jobs, February 24, 1937
  - #10 So Far, So Good, March 4, 1937
- f. 10 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1937-1938
  - #11 Dog Days, August 27, 1937
  - #12 Armistice Day, Or Just---, November 11, 1937
  - #13 The Extraordinary Extra Session to Aid Business Convenes,  
December 8, 1937
  - #14 The Youngster Who Became Too Santa Claus Conscious, December  
21, 1937
  - #15 It's Surprising the Little Lady Has Stuck Around This Long,  
September 21, 1938
- f. 11 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1938
  - #16 This Might be our Best Contribution to Peace, September 22, 1938
  - #17 Submitting a New Keynote, October 6, 1938
  - #18 Trying for the Wary Old Gander Again, October 18, 1938
  - #19 When Opportunity Knocked In Pennsylvania, October 21, 1938
  - #20 Halloween-and the Pranksters Think They've Found Something  
Loose, October 29, 1938
- f. 12 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1938-1939
  - #21 A New Recruit to the Lehman Pepper-Uppers, November 4, 1938
  - #22 Plenty of Work for the New Hired Hand, November 12, 1938
  - #23 Give Your Old Heart a Good Warming, November 14, 1938
  - #24 Not Much to be Thankful for this Year, November 16, 1938
  - #25 Midwestern Hospitality, March 1, 1939
- f. 13 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1939
  - #26 Nothing Succeeds Like Success, March 2, 1939
  - #27 Meeting the Folks, May 25, 1939
  - #28 Holder of Number One Ticket in the Big Sweep, May 26, 1939
  - #29 Progress of Spring House Cleaning, June 2, 1939
  - #30 Caught in its Wake, June 15, 1939
- f. 14 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1939
  - #31 Attendance at the "World of Tomorrow" Fair Disappointing---News  
item, June 16, 1939
  - #32 And There's a Lot More to do Yet, June 21, 1939
  - #33 Shipwrecked Again, June 24, 1939
  - #34 There's a Limit to What a Man Can Stand, June 26, 1939
  - #35 That Gent From the Silver Mines is Here Again, June 28, 1939
- f. 15 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1939
  - #36 Another Dark Alley, July 1, 1939

- #37 That's One Way to Get It, July 3, 1939
- #38 One Reason Congress Has Been in Session So Long, July 5, 1939
- #39 Look Out, Boys-Handsome Paul's a Fast Worker!, July 12, 1939
- #40 Johnny Won't Learn Much the Rest of the Term, July 17, 1939
- f. 16 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1939
  - #41 Paul Never Was One to Take What is Left, July 18, 1939
  - #42 U. S. Record in Gasoline Consumption---Headline, July 21, 1939
  - #43 Samson Takes Another Tug at the Temple, July 27, 1939
  - #44 Mutiny on the Bounty, July 31, 1939
  - #45 It's Going to be a Great Temptation to Moonshiners, August 4, 1939
- f. 17 Editorial Cartoons – Originals, 1939-1941
  - #46 Judging by the Present State of the Party, August 9, 1939
  - #47 Still Looking for a Non-Fattening Dish, August 10, 1939
  - #48 Let's Have One Driver, December 16, 1940
  - #49 How Uncle Sam Feels After Talking to an Interventionist, January 9, 1941
  - #50 What We Would Give for Just One Peek, February 18, 1941
- f. 18 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #51 The most Deliberative Body in the World, March 4, 1941
  - #52 A Moment's Diversion, March 11, 1941
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  - #54 I wonder Barney, if our 'Contest' Was So Smart After all?, April 3, 1941
  - #55 The Daily Exploration for Something Cheerful Gets Tougher, April 10, 1941
- f. 19 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #56 A Poor Way to Promote Unity, April 30, 1941
  - #57 Senator Pepper Gets Out in Front, May 8, 1941
  - #58 This Unpredictable War!, May 12, 1941
  - #59 The Second Heat, May 16, 1941
  - #60 The Highway is Still Patrolled, June 2, 1941
- f. 20 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #61 Where Will the Next Stop Be?, July 9, 1941
  - #62 Nobody Will Take Time to Read the Fine Print, July 11, 1941
  - #63 Most Effective Way to Write the V in Occupied Europe, July 22, 1941
  - #64 The U.S. Commies Seem to Have Got Us All Wrong, July 25, 1941
  - #65 Operations are Proceeding According to Plan - German Communique, July 30, 1941
- f. 21 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #66 Oil for the Lamps of Japan, July 31, 1941
  - #67 A Break for Working Wives—and Their Husbands, August 6, 1941
  - #68 Maybe the Exaggeration is the Measure of the Growing Doubt August 8, 1941
  - #69 Women and Children First, But, August 20, 1941
  - #70 The Old Champeen May be Unhorsed, August 27, 1941
- f. 22 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #71 Priority in Lumber!, August 30, 1941
  - #72 The Dnieper Boatman, September 6, 1941
  - #73 Unity – It's Wonderful, September 10, 1941

- #74 Delivering the Current Morning Mail, September 15, 1941
- #75 The Star Boarder, September 22, 1941
- f. 23 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941
  - #76 A Relic of the Quaint Thirties, September 29, 1941
  - #77 Give Yourself a Lift, Too, October 6, 1941
  - #78 Au Revoir - But Make It Snappy, October 14, 1941
  - #79 Our Own Radio Heckler, October 15, 1941
  - #80 Out of the Frying Pan Into the Fire, October 25, 1941
- f. 24 Political Cartoons – Originals, 1941-1943
  - #81 Preparing for National Defense or a National Election?, October 29, 1941
  - #82 Oh, Well - If the Australians Can Stand It, We'll Probably Bear Up, January 13, 1943
  - #83 It Might be a Good Plan for Breaking in the New Ones, January 16, 1943
  - #84 Illustration for a Slogan, May 13, 1943
  - #85 Not Digging Coal, June 3, 1943
  - #86 The Duce's Zoot Suit, June 15, 1943
- f. 25 Political Cartoons – Originals, n.d.
  - #87 Aid to Benito
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  - #92 Doubling Old Joe's Temptation
  - #93 Electioneering for the Post-War Campaign
  - #94 Father Will do all the Shopping for the Family
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  - #96 Giving Him Six Months to Think it Over
- f. 27 Political Cartoons – Originals, n.d.
  - #97 He'll Need Both Hands
  - #98 If They Did They Wouldn't Admit It
  - #99 Into the Danger Zone
  - #100 It Just About Put One Concession out of Business
  - #101 It Was Rumored a Passenger Might Get Off
- f. 28 Political Cartoons – Originals, n.d.
  - #102 Keep Out!
  - #103 Now if Everybody Will Just Stick to the Music
  - #104 One Sit-Down We're All For
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  - #107 The Red March on the White House
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- f. 30 Political Cartoons – Originals, n.d.

- #112 Texas Language
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- #114 The Tired Business Man Is Getting Awfully Tired
- #115 They Both Promised... They’d Better Make Good
- #116 A Triumph for the Good Neighbor Policy
- f. 31 Political Cartoons – Originals, n.d.
  - #117 Waiting for the Door to Open
  - #118 We Don’t Get It
  - #119 We’d Rather Have it First Hand
  - #120 What’s Happened Here?
- f. 32 Political Cartoons – Original Sketches, n.d.
  - #121 Untitled pencil and ink sketch
  - #122 Untitled pencil sketch

**Series 5: C. K. Berryman Editorial Cartoon, 1934**

- f. 33 That White House Specter, 1934

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**Processed by Joanna Marsh, Special Collections Librarian, May 2017.**