

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786070503321
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Titolo	Thomas Nast [[electronic resource]] : the father of modern political cartoons / / Fiona Deans Halloran
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chapel Hill, N.C., : University of North Carolina Press, 2012
ISBN	1-4696-0023-4 0-8078-3735-0
Edizione	[1 [ed..]]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 366 pages)
Disciplina	741.5/6973 B
Soggetti	Cartoonists - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	From Five Points to Frank Leslie's Illustrated News -- Early Work and Training -- Travel to Europe and Sallie -- Compromise with the South -- Falling in Love with Grant -- Tweed -- The Campaign of 1872 -- Redpath and Wealth -- Access and Authority -- Conflict with Curtis -- The End of an Era -- Nast's Weekly and Guayaquil -- Legacy.
Sommario/riassunto	"Thomas Nast (1840-1902), the founding father of American political cartooning, is perhaps best known for his cartoons portraying political parties as the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast's legacy also includes a trove of other political cartoons, his successful attack on the machine politics of Tammany Hall in 1871, and his wildly popular illustrations of Santa Claus for Harper's Weekly magazine. Throughout his career, his drawings provided a pointed critique that forced readers to confront the contradictions around them. In this thoroughgoing and lively biography, Fiona Deans Halloran focuses not just on Nast's political cartoons for Harper's but also on his place within the complexities of Gilded Age politics and highlights the many contradictions in his own life: he was an immigrant who attacked immigrant communities, a supporter of civil rights who portrayed black men as foolish children in need of guidance, and an enemy of corruption and hypocrisy who idolized Ulysses S. Grant. He was a man with powerful friends, including Mark Twain, and powerful enemies, including William M. "Boss" Tweed. Halloran interprets Nast's work,

explores his motivations and ideals, and illuminates Nast's lasting legacy on American political culture. "--
