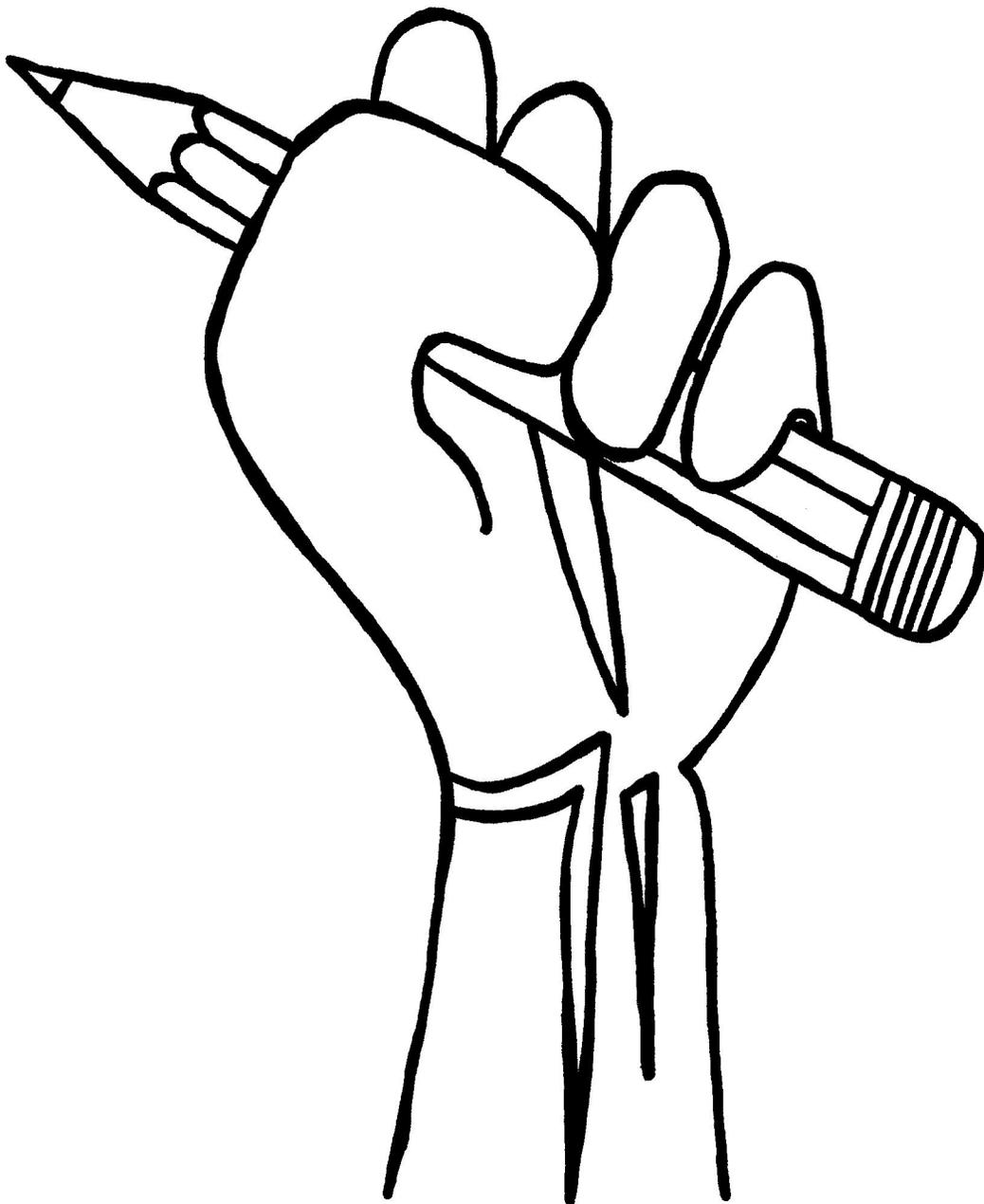


THE LITTLE RED COLOURING BOOK

Vol. 2



THE GRAPHIC HISTORY COLLECTIVE

The Little Red Colouring Book Vol. 2

May Day and the Haymarket Martyrs

Art to Fan the Flames of Discontent

Afterword by Mark Leier

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"The day will come when our silence will be more powerful
than the voices you strangle today" - August Spies

Colouring outside the Lines

Colouring is cool again! These days, many stores carry a vast array of colouring and activity books on a variety of topics, from popular TV shows to cute cats and exotic plants. There is even an adult colouring book “For Dummies,” promising to guide people through the basics of colouring in case they need a refresher.

Most of these books market colouring as a fun, creative, and mindless distraction, and there is something soothing about getting lost in adding colour to an intricate illustration. Colouring can help us relax and reduce stress and can also serve as a form of meditation. Moreover, colouring taps into our nostalgia for childhood, a time when life was simpler and we had less responsibility. In short, most adult colouring books sell us on the fact that life is busy and difficult, but colouring is simple and fun!

The Little Red Colouring Book has a different objective. Our art aims to fan the flames of discontent rather than snuff them out. Taking inspiration from the Industrial Workers of the World’s *Little Red Song Book*, *The Little Red Colouring Book* offers a mindful activity to inspire people to learn more about historical labour activists and revolutionaries that fought for the rights and freedoms many of us take for granted today.

Volume 2 focuses on the Haymarket Martyrs. Many people are not aware that May Day, International Workers’ Day, or May 1, commemorates the 1886 Haymarket affair. The event involved eight anarchists in Chicago who were wrongly convicted of throwing a bomb at police during a labour demonstration in support of workers striking for the eight-hour day. On shaky evidence, seven men (Samuel Fielden, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer, August Spies, George Engel, Michael Schwab, and Louis Lingg) were sentenced to death while another (Oscar Neebe) was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Of the eight men, four were executed by hanging. As historian Mark Leier explains in the afterword of this colouring book, the Haymarket affair played an important role in shaping the development of the left in North America and the world. Activists today can similarly reflect on and learn from the lessons of Haymarket and its legacy to struggle for a better world.

We hope that this radical colouring book, created by donated union labour from members of the Graphic History Collective, will help people de-stress and relax and also inspire folks to learn from history and take action to bring about social change today. People can colour the following pages however they like. Colour outside the lines. Break the rules and enjoy it. Organize colouring parties with friends, family, and fellow workers, and talk about the figures profiled.

The challenge of living in our contemporary capitalist society is not simply to “get through” our working lives so that we can enjoy a few hours to eat brunch and binge watch the newest TV show (as much fun as that is). Instead, as Antonio Gramsci reminds us, the challenge of living in a deeply unequal and unfair society is to “live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned.” Creative outlets, like colouring, can help us cope with the stress and frustrations of the “daily grind,” but they can also allow us to learn about, reflect on, and devise strategies to change the world.

In love and solidarity,
The Graphic History Collective

Samuel Fielden



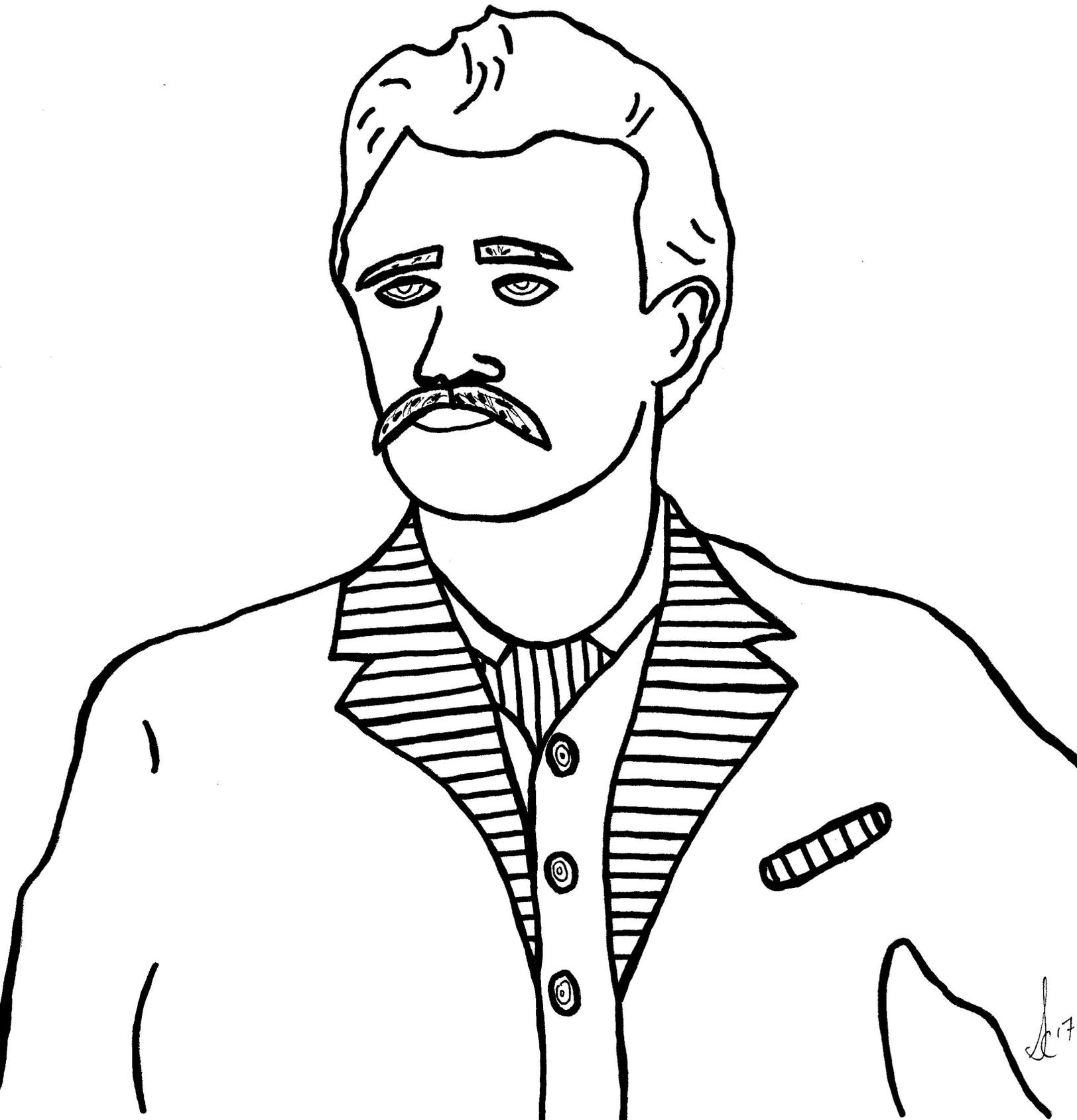
Albert Parsons



Adolph Fischer



August Spies



2017

HAYMARKET WORDSEARCH

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ANARCHISM SPIES
 ENGEL KOL
 FIELOEN LINGG
 FISCHER MAYDAY
 GOLDMAN NEEBE
 HAYMARKET PARSONS
 HAYWOOD REVOLUTION
 IWW SCHWAB

George Engel



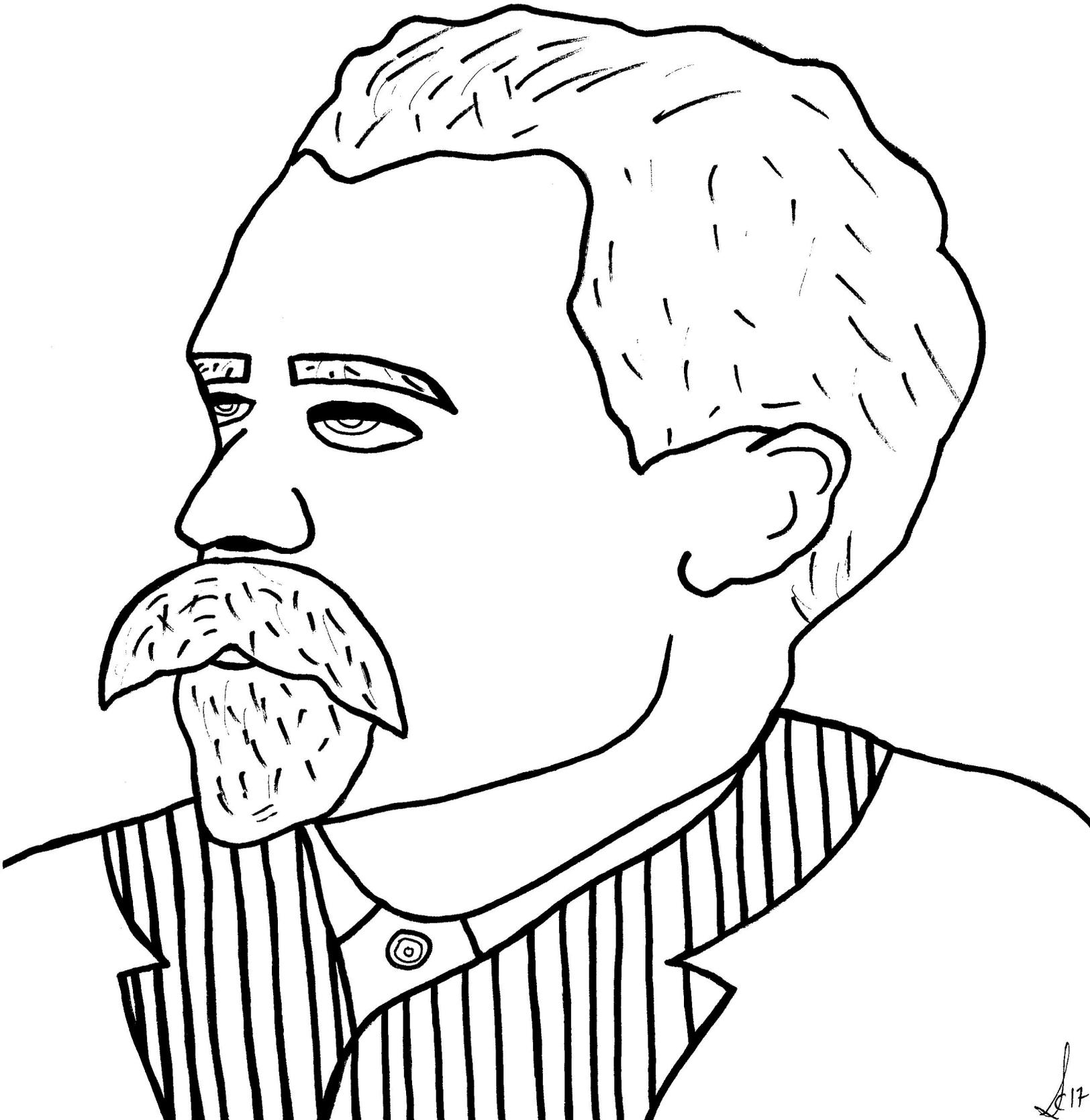
Michael Schwab



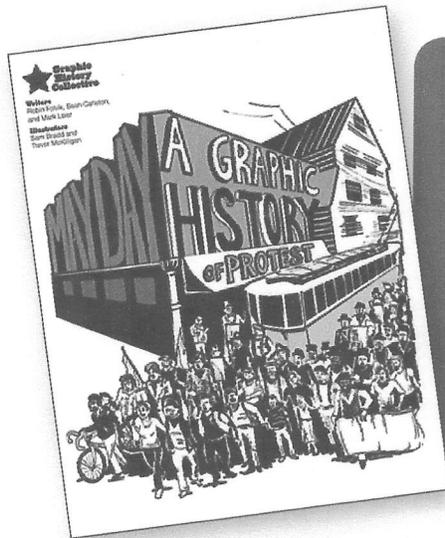
Louis Lingg



Oscar Neebe



17



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May Day: A Graphic History of Protest traces the development of International Workers' Day, May 1st, against the ever-changing economic and political backdrop in Canada. Recognizing the importance of work and the historical struggles of workers to improve their lives, with a particular focus on the struggles of May 1st, the comic includes the reader as part of this history, and the story concludes that "We are all part of this historical struggle; it's our history and our future."

PRaise FOR MAY DAY:

"*May Day* is history with a twist: entertaining, insightful, informative, and seen through a critical lens.... This is both for history buffs as well as lovers of graphic novels, and suitable for both young and old."

Florencia Berinstein, Executive Director, Workers Arts and Heritage Centre

"This fascinating work provides an original, accessible window into the history of International Workers' Day and the wider story of grassroots struggle for working-class power. It weaves the origins and development of May Day around key events in Canadian and international working-class history, from Haymarket to the Winnipeg General Strike, to 21st-century struggles for worker rights."

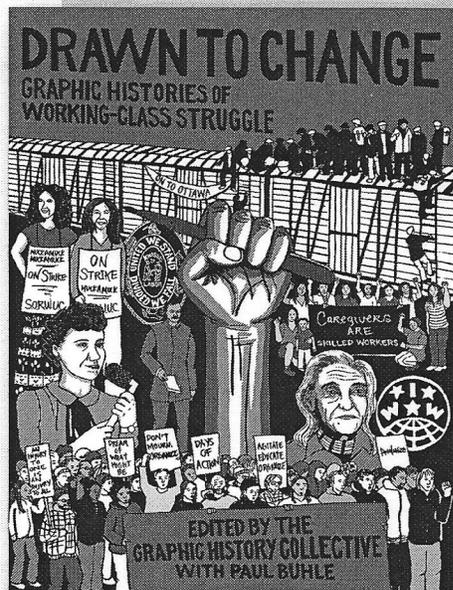
Benjamin Isitt, author of *Militant Minority: British Columbia Workers and the Rise of a New Left*



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“This evocative collection of the struggles and achievements of labour organizing should inspire us to ‘dream of what might be’ and to act to bring it about.”

— NOAM CHOMSKY



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Edited by the Graphic History Collective With Paul Buhle

“A RIOT OF graphic ingenuity rages through these tales of real-life heroes, their triumphs and tragedies, uprisings and setbacks, as they fought to make our working lives better. Recommended for anyone who has had or hopes to have a job.” — SABRINA JONES, author of *Our Lady of Birth Control: A Cartoonist's Encounter with Margaret Sanger*

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Afterword

Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Legacy of Haymarket

The history of labour and the left is starkly illuminated by moments that reveal the true nature of capital, the state, and the judicial system. In the United States, the trials and execution of the Rosenbergs for conspiracy to commit espionage, of the Italian anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for murder, and of IWW songwriter Joe Hill for murder, are only three of many such moments. Were the defendants convicted in show trials that wanted to suppress radicalism? Were the convictions due to nativism, racism, and political hysteria? Did the defendants receive a fair trial by the laws and procedures of the day? Did they receive adequate and appropriate legal counsel? Would they be convicted and executed under contemporary standards of law and the state of forensic science? Has new evidence exonerated them or supported the cases against them? Were they guilty under the law but heroic in their commitment to other standards of ethics and justice? These cases raise important questions and push us to declare which side of the class struggle we are on.

Each of these questions was raised by the Haymarket affair (1886) and have been raised by historians and activists again in recent years. But Haymarket is different, for the sacrifices made by Samuel Fielden, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer, August Spies, George Engel, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg, and Oscar Neebe inspired subsequent radical activists in ways the later cases did not. The most obvious example is Lucy Parsons, the widow of Albert Parsons, one of the hanged anarchists. Parsons worked with her husband in the Knights of Labor, then crisscrossed the continent for forty years after his execution, addressing and inspiring strikers, radicals, and unionists. As late as the 1920s, Lucy Parsons was dubbed by the Chicago police as being “more dangerous than 1,000 rioters.” One of her most significant actions was to help found a new, radical union in 1905: the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Parsons was joined at the founding convention by Mary “Mother” Jones,” another activist deeply affected by the events of Haymarket. In her words, the Haymarket anarchists “were martyrs to the workers’ struggle....But with them was not buried their cause. The struggle for the eight-hour day, for more human conditions and relations between man and man lived on, and still lives on.”

Others shaped by Haymarket came together with Parsons and Jones to form the IWW. “Big” Bill Haywood, the chair of the union’s founding convention and its best-known organizer, was a young man in Nevada during the events of Haymarket. But the newspaper stories and discussions with other workers brought him into the labour movement and the IWW; later he would reflect that Haymarket was “a turning point in my life.” Another well-known Wobbly organizer and writer, William Trautmann, arrived in the U.S. a few years after Haymarket. Settling in Chicago, he became active in the Pioneer Aid Society, established in 1887 to raise money for the families of the Haymarket martyrs. This was a crucial part of his political education, and he, too, took part in founding the IWW, served on the union’s executive board, and authored many of its pamphlets and leaflets in its first ten years.

Perhaps the most famous radical to be influenced by Haymarket was the anarchist Emma Goldman. In her autobiography, *Living My Life*, Goldman noted that together with her fellow immigrants she had little understanding of politics, but “the violence of the press, the bitter denunciation of the accused, the attacks on all foreigners, turned our sympathies” to the Haymarket anarchists. After their execution, she was left with “a great ideal, a burning faith, a determination to dedicate myself to the memory of my martyred comrades, to make their cause my own, to make known to the world their beautiful lives and heroic deaths.”

If Haymarket helped create new generations of radicals, the “red scare” that followed encouraged conservatives in the labour and left movements to distance themselves from their erstwhile comrades. As police raids arrested members of the Knights of Labor and the court delivered its verdicts, the head of the Knights, Terence Powderly, insisted that the anarchists of Haymarket “represented no legitimate labor society, and obeyed the counsels of the worst foe this Order has upon the face of the earth to-day.” He continued, “for Parsons and the other condemned men let there be mercy. I have no grudge against them.... but for anarchy I have nothing but hatred, and if I could I would forever wipe from the face of the earth the last vestige of its doubledamned presence, and in doing so would feel that the best act of my life, in the interest of labor, had been performed.”

Haymarket also encouraged Samuel Gompers to move decisively against both the Knights and radical politics. When the aftermath of Haymarket left the Knights weakened, Gompers used the opportunity to create the American Federation of Labor as a more conservative, less inclusive alternative that he would head until his death in 1924. While Gompers did appeal to the Illinois governor for clemency for the anarchists, Bill Haywood registered his disgust when Gompers made it clear that “I have differed all my life with the principles and methods of the condemned.” Haywood also ridiculed Gompers’s suggestion to the governor that the anarchists should be spared the gallows to prevent them being viewed as martyrs and thus aiding their cause. In Haywood’s view, this was typical of Gompers’s work to “prevent the growth of the revolutionary working class movement.”

Thus Haymarket is a historical moment that reveals the workings of capital and the state and the tensions within labour and the left, differences over questions of tactics and strategies, of means and ends, of confrontation and cooptation. These questions are ultimately of more importance than those of guilt and innocence. This colouring book, by raising awareness about Haymarket, provides an opportunity for contemporary activists to ask, and answer, these questions today.

Mark Leier

Mark Leier is a historian at Simon Fraser University. He is the author of *Bakunin: The Creative Passion* and *Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy*.

Additional Information

Samuel Fielden (1847–1922): Fielden was born in England where his father, a chartist, was active in the 10-hour Movement. Samuel moved to Chicago in 1869, worked as a teamster, and became involved in the International Workingmen's Association. As a labour activist and lay pastor, he was invited to speak at the demonstration at Haymarket planned for 4 May 1886. It was Fielden who was delivering a speech on the importance of socialism when a bomb was thrown into a crowd of police who had gathered to disperse the demonstration. Fielden was accused of inciting the crowd to riot and sentenced to death. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. After six years in prison, he was pardoned and released from jail.

Albert Parsons (1848–1887): Parsons was born in Alabama and, at a young age, joined the military force of the Confederate States of America. After the Civil War, Parsons settled in Texas and became an advocate for the rights of former slaves, an unpopular position at the time. In the early 1870s, Parsons married Lucy Gonzalez, who claimed Native American and Mexican ancestry. The Parsons were forced to flee to Chicago in 1873 due to intolerant reactions to their interracial marriage in Texas. In Chicago, Albert and Lucy Parsons became effective organizers and labour activists in groups such as the Knights of Labor and the International Working People's Association. Albert originally declined to speak at the Haymarket demonstration but changed his mind during the rally. Although Albert, Lucy, and their children had left the rally before the bomb was thrown, Albert, as a known anarchist and speaker at the event, was charged and sentenced to death. On 11 November 1887, Albert was executed by hanging.

Adolph Fischer (1858–1887): Fischer was born in Germany where his father frequently attended socialist meetings. In 1873, Fischer immigrated to the United States and became a printer. In 1883, he moved his family to Chicago and worked at the *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, a pro-labour newspaper edited by August Spies and Michael Schwab. As a labour activist, Fischer attended the Haymarket demonstration and distributed handbills encouraging working people to come to show their support. After being arrested, charged, and sentenced to death, Fischer refused to ask the Illinois governor, Richard James Oglesby, for clemency. On 11 November 1887, Fischer was executed by hanging. His last words were: "Hurray for Anarchy! This is the happiest moment of my life."

August Spies (1855–1887): Spies was born in Germany and grew up in relative privilege. After his father died suddenly, however, his family's financial situation changed, and he immigrated to the United States. Spies became an upholsterer, got involved in the labour movement, and took up the position of co-editor of the pro-labour newspaper *Arbeiter-Zeitung*. Spies spoke at the Haymarket demonstration and was arrested, charged, and then executed by hanging on 11 November 1887. His final words were: "The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

George Engel (1836–1887): Engel emigrated from Germany to the United States and quickly became active in labour and socialist groups, such as the International Workingmen's Association. Engel attended a planning meeting on the night before the demonstration but claims to have been at home playing cards at the time the bomb was thrown. Nevertheless, Engel was arrested, charged, and sentenced to death by hanging.

On 11 November 1887, Engel was executed by hanging. His last words were "Hurray for anarchy."

Michael Schwab (1853–1898): Schwab was born in Germany where he got involved in the German Social Democratic Party. After immigrating to the United States, Schwab joined the Socialist Labor Party, got involved in the eight-hour day movement, and became co-editor of the pro-labour newspaper *Arbeiter-Zeitung*. Schwab contended that he stopped by the Haymarket demonstration for no more than five minutes to look for August Spies. Unsuccessful, Schwab left the rally to attend another meeting of workers in another part of the city. Nevertheless, he was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to death. Schwab wrote to the governor for leniency, and his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Six years later, Schwab was pardoned and released from jail.

Louis Lingg (1864–1887): Lingg was born in Germany where he became a carpenter. After a brief time in Switzerland, Lingg immigrated to the United States where he joined the International Carpenters and Joiners' Union. While Lingg was a known anarchist and bomb maker, he was not present at the Haymarket demonstration. In fact, Lingg argued, "I couldn't have thrown the bomb. I was at home making bombs." Lingg continued to deny that the bomb thrown was of his creation. At his sentencing, Lingg proclaimed, "I die happy on the gallows, so confident am I that the hundreds and thousands to whom I have spoken will remember my words. When you shall have hanged us, then they will do the bombthrowing! In this hope do I say to you, I despise you, I despise your order, your laws, your forced propped authority. Hang me for it." Lingg, though, chose to die by suicide instead, writing "Hoch die anarchie!" (Hurray for anarchy!) in his cell before lighting a bomb off in his mouth and taking his own life.

Oscar Neebe (1850–1916): Neebe was born in New York City to German immigrants. Neebe travelled to different parts of the country before moving to Chicago to become the office manager for the *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, the workers' rights newspaper co-edited by August Spies and Michael Schwab. Neebe was not present at the Haymarket affair but was arrested because of his association with known anarchists who had attended. The evidence against Neebe was particularly weak, and he was only sentenced to 15 years in prison. Neebe was eventually pardoned and released from jail in 1893. Neebe continued to be active in the labour movement and joined the Industrial Workers of the World shortly after its founding in 1905.

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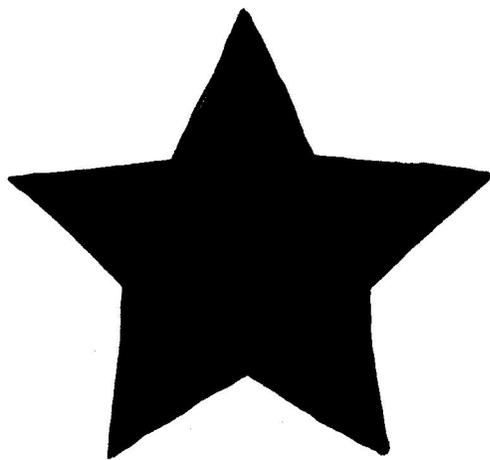
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- Noam Chomsky



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