

ambivalence over immigration

America's ambivalence over immigration goes way back, and the two sources of our mixed feelings have almost always been the same: economics and national identity. You can see it in these images from The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Collection.

This 1852 Boston newspaper advertisement (below) expresses anxiety over immigration. At the foot of the hill (on the left of the image) is a gathering of native-

born Americans, including sailors, farmers, soldiers, and a Revolutionary War veteran. They hold banners emblazoned with such mottoes as "The Bible The Cornerstone of Liberty," "Beware of Foreign Influence," and "None But Americans Shall Rule America." The text at the bottom of the ad states that "the American Patriot" favors "protection of American Mechanics Against Foreign Pauper Labor."

At times we've wondered if America should pull in the welcome mat . . .



AMERICAN CITIZENS!

We appeal to you in all calumny. Is it not time to pause? Already the enemies of our dearest institutions, like the foreign spies in the Trojan horse of old, are within our gates. They are disgorging themselves upon us, at the rate of HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVERY YEAR! They aim at nothing short of conquest and supremacy over us.

A PAPER ENTITLED THE

AMERICAN PATRIOT.

IN FAVOR OF

The protection of American Mechanics against Foreign Pauper Labor.
Foreigners having a residence in the country of 21 years before voting.
Our present Free School System.
Carrying out the laws of the State, as regards sending back Foreign Paupers and Criminals.

OPPOSED TO

Papal Aggression & Roman Catholicism.
Foreigners holding office.
Raising Foreign Military Companies in the United States.
Nunneries and the Jesuits.
To being taxed for the support of Foreign paupers millions of dollars yearly.
To secret Foreign Orders in the U. S.

We are burdened with enormous taxes by foreigners. We are corrupted in the morals of our youth. We are interfered with in our government. We are forced into collisions with other nations. We are tampered with in our religion. We are injured in our labor. We are assailed in our freedom of speech.

The PATRIOT is Published by J. E. Farwell & Co., 32 Congress St., Boston, And for Sale at the Periodical Depots in this place. Single copies 4 Cents.

is nothing new

Images from the Library of Congress

Uncle Sam on the “U.S. Ark of Refuge” welcoming immigrants, 1880.



Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-954

But we've also been committed to the notion that America should be a refuge for the world's oppressed and a land of opportunity for those who seek "a better life."

To view more images from the Library of Congress online collection, go to <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>, select Search the Catalog, and type "immigration" in the Search box. But be forewarned, some of the images are disturbing. The past wasn't always pretty.