

Resource Sheet#9

Document H-Office of War Information Political Cartoon titled, "And in my spare time..."



Source: B., & Office of War Information. (1943). [Woman talking to another woman on deck of a ship, while riveting with one hand, holding a baby with the other; small children cling to her legs.] "And then in my spare time ..." Retrieved from http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/126_rosi.html#posters

Background Information: The Office of War Information was designed to produce propaganda during the war years to garnish support for war related efforts. This cartoon reflects a change in the perception of working mothers. Before the war, marriage bars would not allow companies to hire married women. After lifting the ban on hiring mothers during the war, approximately 75% of all women workers were married, and of that number, 50% had children under the age of 14 (May, 1999).

Educational materials were developed through the Making Master Teachers in Howard County Program, a partnership between the Howard County Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Guiding Questions:

1. How would you describe the attitudes of the children in this cartoon?
2. How does this cartoon portray working mothers?
3. To what extent does the Office of War Information (a federal agency) value women workers?