

“Uncle Sam’s Thanksgiving Dinner”

Harper’s Weekly
November 20, 1869

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First-Year Seminar (COLA 100) Cartoon Project - Fall 2012

Published in the November 22nd, 1869 issue of *Harper Weekly*, by Thomas Nast (known for the invention of the character Uncle Sam) Nast captured and celebrated the ethnic diversity and envision the political equality of citizens of the American republic. Even though it seems as if the picture shows that everyone race (African, Native, French, German, Arab, British, Chinese, Italian, etc.) are getting along, there are many hidden messages that lies in this photo. Nast aims the cartoon at the ratification of the 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On the table is a monument to “self-government” and “Universal Suffrage,” at the time former president Ulysses S. Grant was in office, right next to him Former presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Even though Thanksgiving was celebrated by many other races in America it was recognized when Pilgrims came over. Typically Thanksgiving would be reference to God but now it is festival of family reunion, feasting and charity. In 1941 Congress formally established the fourth Thursday in November as the nation’s Thanksgiving.

