

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

AllAboutMagicians. "Harry Houdini- Straight Jacket Escape." Online video clip. *YouTube*.

Youtube, 4 December 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3r8qr-p9z5g>. Accessed 2 February 2020.

This video displayed Houdini escaping from one of his most famous escapes, the straitjacket. We used this in our website to show how daring his escapes were.

"Bess and Harry Houdini at Mother's Grave." *The Library of Congress*,

<https://www.loc.gov/item/94503064/>. Accessed 15 November 2019.

This photograph showed Bess and Harry Houdini at Harry's mother's grave. It helped us begin our research on Harry's relationship with his mother, which then led us to spiritualism.

"Christmas Card of Mrs. Harry Houdini, with Bust Portrait of Mrs. Houdini." *The Library of*

Congress, https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:3:./temp/~ammem_fNad::@@

[@mdb=mcc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnw](https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:3:./temp/~ammem_fNad::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnw)

[p,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib](https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:3:./temp/~ammem_fNad::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnw). Accessed 5 January

2020.

This photograph was of a Christmas card Bess Houdini sent out in 1935. It gave us a look into Bess's life after Harry died.

"Daring Dive Poster and Victoria Theater Announcement, 1914." *The Library of Congress*,

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=varshoud&fileName=hs010/hs010.data&recNum=0&Layout=Unscaled&itemLink=D?varstg:25:./temp/~ammem_bpL9::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This picture of an advertisement gave us information about yet another theater Houdini performed at. It was very interesting to see a poster that is over a hundred years old.

Dietz, Carl, photographer. Crate containing Harry Houdini, being lowered from ship into water /

Dietz, N.Y. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress,

www.loc.gov/item/94503070/. Accessed 27 January 2020.

This photograph shows Houdini being lowered into the water from a boat. He is packed into a wooden crate as part of his act.

"Diver's Suit." Smithsonian.com, Smithsonian,

smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/harry-houdini-ingenious-innovator-didnt-want-anybody-know-180961078/. Accessed 5 January 2020.

This was a diagram of exactly how Houdini escaped from a diver's suit. It was signed by Houdini himself, as well as some witnesses. It helped us understand exactly how complicated escaping from one of his challenges was.

Harry Houdini, -1926, seated in cockpit of his biplane. [No Date Recorded on Caption Card]

Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2007675366/>.

Accessed 27 January 2020.

This photo is of Houdini sitting in the cockpit of his biplane. This shows part of Houdini's accomplishments in aviation.

Harry Houdini, full-length portrait, standing, facing front, in chains. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/96519268/>. Accessed 27 January 2020.

This image is a very famous picture of Houdini standing in chains and shackles. It showed us how Houdini was chained when he performed.

"Harry Houdini Performs the Milk Can Escape." *The Library of Congress*,

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:27:./temp/~ammem_bpL9::@@@mdb=mmc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This picture showed how Houdini performed the milk can escape. It helped us visualize what the trick would have looked like in person.

"Harry Houdini with his Mother Cecilia Steiner Weiss, Rochester, New York." *Library of Congress*,

https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:28:./temp/~ammem_xj6g::@@@mdb=mc, aap, consrvbib, vv, presp, varstg, suffrg, hlaw, aaodysey, coolbib, fpnas, mff, mnwp, ww2map, mfdipbib, klpmap, ncpm, psbib, mharendt, awh, awhbib. Accessed 25 January 2020.

This resource gave us a visual of Houdini's mother, Cecilia. It also gave us another part of her name we did not previously know; Steiner.

"Houdini and the Magic of Flight." *Library of Congress*,

https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:3:./temp/~ammem_m0I1::@@@mdb=mc, aap, consrvbib, vv, presp, varstg, suffrg, hlaw, aaodysey, coolbib, fpnas, mff, mnwp, ww2map, mfdipbib, klpmap, ncpm, psbib, mharendt, awh, awhbib. Accessed 24 January 2020.

These four photographs helped in demonstrating what Houdini's plane looked like. They gave us valuable information about what planes looked like back then.

"Houdini and the Water Torture Cell." *Library of Congress*,

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:2:./temp/~ammem_J0sD::@@@mdb=mc, aap, consrvbib, vv, presp, varstg, suffrg, hlaw, aaodysey, coolbib, fpnas, mff, mnwp, ww2map, mfdipbib, klpmap, ncpm, psbib, mharendt, awh, awhbib. Accessed 26 January 2020.

This photograph gave us a visual of Houdini's famous Chinese Water Torture Cell Escape. It is used on our "Career" page.

Houdini at gravesite alone and with his brother William Weiss, New York, New York.

Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/96520215/>.

Accessed 27 January 2020.

This image shows Houdini and his brother in the graveyard. It helped us in a similar way to the photo of Houdini and Bess at his mother's grave as far as guiding our research.

"Houdini Discloses Secrets And Frauds of Spiritualism." *Marquette Tribune*, October 5, 1923.

This newspaper article was given to us by Ellie Gettinger, the Education Director at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. It gave us lots of useful information on when Houdini came to Marquette University to speak about debunking false mediums. It also explained how some of the fake mediums pulled their tricks off, as well as the names of a few.

"Houdini Exposes Psychic Fraud." *The Library of Congress*,

<https://www.loc.gov/item/96520561/>. Accessed 26 January 2020.

We used this photograph as the background for our "Spiritualism" page. It gave us useful information on a time when Houdini exposed a false medium.

"Houdini Flight." *Museums Victoria Collections*, Australia,

<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/3706>. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This poster advertises Houdini's public flights in Australia. It told us how much it cost to stand and watch, as well as the date it occurred.

Houdini, Harry. "Unknown Facts Concerning Robert Houdin." *The Conjuror's Monthly Magazine*, Oct. 1906, pp. 37–37,

https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=varshoud&fileName=hs050/hs050.data&recNum=4&itemLink=D?varstg:11:./temp/~ammem_fNad::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 20 January 2020.

This was an article in *The Conjuror's Monthly Magazine*, written by Harry Houdini. It gave us information about the magician Houdini named himself after.

"Houdini, Head-and-Shoulder Portrait, Facing Front." *The Library of Congress*,

https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:41:./temp/~ammem_15Yk::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This photograph is the background for our "Quiz" page. It helps in demonstrating the physical appearance of Houdini.

"Houdini, in a Packing Case, is Lowered Into New York Bay." *Library of Congress*,

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:10:./temp/~ammem_yNf1::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 26 January 2020.

This photograph showed what the box Houdini used for his Overboard Escape looked like during his escape. It is used on our "Career" page.

"Houdini in Chains." *Wisconsin Historical Society*,

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM83268>. Accessed 26 January 2020.

This photograph is the background for our "Home" page. It helps describe the plot in Houdini's movie, *The Grim Game*.

"Houdini Makes Spirit Hands." *The Library of Congress*,

<https://www.loc.gov/item/96519247/>. Accessed 26 January 2020.

This photograph explained how false mediums pulled off the "Spirit Hands" trick. It helped us understand the process of the trick by giving us a visual interpretation.

"Houdini Performs the East Indian Needle Trick." *The Library of Congress*,

https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:100:./temp/~ammem_15Yk::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This picture exhibited how Houdini performed his East Indian Needle Trick. It helped us in understanding the process of the trick.

"Incredible Footage of Magician Harry Houdini Performing Stunts,"

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1560582/Incredible-footage-magician-Houdini-performing-stunts.html>. Accessed 24 January 2020.

This resource was an important visual in understanding Houdini's performances and the effect they had on the public.

"Letter of Harry Houdini Discussing His Library." *The Library of Congress*,

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/varshoud.hs049/?r=-1.104,-0.083,3.208,1.399,0>. Accessed 20 January 2020.

This letter explained Harry Houdini's extensive library of spiritualistic items. It helped us understand the Houdini's dedication to spiritualism.

Library of Congress, "Harry Houdini, King of Cards." Accessed 5 January 2020.

This was a poster advertising Houdini's card tricks. It helped us discover Houdini's career before he became famous for escaping because it was printed before that.

"Mr. and Mrs. Houdini," *Wisconsin Historical Society*,

wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM83265. Accessed 5 January 2020.

This picture shows Bess and Harry Houdini dressed in formal wear. The picture was taken in 1926, the year Houdini died. This showed us what the couple wore when going to a fancy event, which was rare.

“Special Performance, Friday Morning Only, April 27, 1923, 11 A.m. : Houdini, the Genius of Escape (in Person) Who Will Startle and Amaze, with a Lecture on Fraud Mediums and Miracle Mongers ...” *The Library of Congress*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011659023/>. Accessed 20 January 2020.

This advertisement gave us a perspective on the public's view of Houdini. It also gave us an actual time Houdini performed, which was very interesting.

Teale, Oscar S. , Former Owner, Hammerstein'S Victoria Theatre, and Mcmanus-Young Collection. Daring dive!: poster and Victoria Theater announcement. [1914] Image. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018682494/>. Accessed 27 January 2020.

This image advertises Houdini being thrown off a bridge in New York and shows how he gained popularity and awareness for his stunts.

"The Weed Chain Tire Grip Company, New York City, Challenges Mr. Harry Houdini." *The Library of Congress*, http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?varstg:24:./temp/~ammem_wv8O::@@@mdb=mcc,aap,consrvbib,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,hlaw,aaodysey,coolbib,fpnas,mff,mnwp,ww2map,mfdipbib,klpmap,ncpm,psbib,mharendt,awh,awhbib. Accessed 26 January 2020.

This letter explained a time when Houdini was challenged to an escape. It helped in our research of Houdini's time period, because it described not only Houdini, but other people as well.

“Harry Houdini Quotes and Sayings.” *Inspiring Quotes*,

www.inspiringquotes.us/author/7211-harry-houdini. Accessed 2 February 2020.

This website provided us with all the Houdini quotes used in our website. We could imagine Houdini saying them as we read them.

Secondary Sources

“10 Facts About Harry Houdini.” *Mental Floss*, 18 Mar. 2009,

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/21181/quick-10-10-facts-about-harry-houdini>.

Accessed 12 December 2019.

This website was a good start for our research. It captured our attention and gave us some interesting, and widely unknown, facts to research further.

“1920's American Culture Impacts.” *Harry Houdini's Impact on 1920's American Culture?*

<https://harry-houdini.weebly.com/1920rsquos-american-culture-impacts.html>. Accessed

20 December 2019.

This resource gave us a good view of the impact Houdini had on 1920s culture. It also gave some photos, videos, and facts about Houdini as well as explaining what American culture was like back then.

“A MAGICIAN AMONG THE SPIRITS.” *American Hauntings*,

<https://www.americanhauntingsink.com/houdini>. Accessed 20 January 2020.

This website had information about Houdini’s crusade against spiritualism. It explained his experiments with seances and how he exposed false mediums.

Andrews, Evan. "10 Things You May Not Know About Harry Houdini." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 1 Feb. 2016,
<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-harry-houdini>.
Accessed 10 December 2019.

This source was the first one we looked at. It gave us ideas of what to further research and told us about some of Harry Houdini's other accomplishments.

"Biography." *Ducksters Educational Site*,
https://www.ducksters.com/biography/entertainers/harry_houdini.php. Accessed 10
December 2019.

This website gave us basic information about aspects of Houdini's life and helped in making the timeline included on our website.

Brandon, Ruth. *The Life and Many Deaths of Harry Houdini*. Random House Trade Paperbacks,
2003.

This biography gave insight into Houdini's obsession with death and explaining/debunking spiritualism. It also connected to Harry's death-defying tricks in saying that it was a reflection of his obsession over death through his own mortality.

Communicating with Prisoners,

<http://www.acrosswalls.org/houdinis-relationship-with-his-mother/>. Accessed 6 January 2020.

This website gave us more information about why Houdini's mother was so important to him and explained the role she played in his fight against spiritualism.

Cutler, Max. "Harry Houdini's 8 Most Daring Magic Tricks." *Parcast*, Parcast, 9 Aug. 2016,

<https://www.parcast.com/blog/2016/8/9/harry-houdinis-8-most-daring-magic-tricks>.

Accessed 24 January 2020.

This website gave us an idea of some of Houdini's most amazing escapes and tricks. These gave us an idea of why people were so amazed by him, the mystery behind his escapes, and the hard work he put in to become an amazing illusionist.

Goddard, Peter. "Houdini's Inescapable Influence." *Thestar.com*, 31 Dec. 2010,

https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2010/12/30/houdinis_inescapable_influence.html.

Accessed 22 December 2019.

This website gave us a better understanding of the impact Houdini made in his time period, as well as the lasting effect it had on society.

“Harry Houdini.” *Harry Houdini*,

<https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3711.html>. Accessed 10 December 2019.

This website gave us insight into Houdini’s childhood and rise to fame as well as more understanding of his family and their impact on him.

“Harry Houdini.” *Harry Houdini | Psi Encyclopedia*,

<https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/articles/harry-houdini>. Accessed 15 December 2019.

We used this for images and ideas to further research, as well as looking at the sources for more reliable information.

Harry Houdini - Magic of Harry Houdini - History of Harry Houdini - Houdini,

<http://www.aaronmartini.com/harryhoudini.html>. Accessed 3 January 2020.

This source gave information on other magicians, Houdini’s namesake, a little bit on his view on spiritualism, and information on his death.

“Harry Houdini Timeline.” *World History Project*,

<https://worldhistoryproject.org/topics/harry-houdini>. Accessed 3 January 2020.

This timeline helped us gather information to fit into our timeline and gave us a good overview of significant events in Houdini’s life.

Henning, Doug. *Houdini: His Legend and His Magic*. Times Books, 1977.

This book contained tons of rare photographs. It helped us in finding pictures that would best fit our website.

“Houdini Begins Debunking Spirits Mediums.” *World History Project*,

<https://worldhistoryproject.org/1920/houdini-begins-debunking-spirits-mediums>.

Accessed 20 December 2020.

This website gave us information on Houdini's process in debunking false mediums.

“Houdini Book List | History Detectives.” *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service,

<https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/houdini-book-list/>. Accessed 5 January 2020.

This site had a list of books about Harry Houdini. It helped us in our search for books about him at the library.

“Houdini Tribute: Houdini: Harry Houdini.” *Houdini*,

<http://www.houdintribute.com/houdini.html>. Accessed 3 January 2020.

This website gave us good background information to help begin our search. It also held the picture of Houdini's mother, father, and of himself with his racing medals.

“Houdini's Silent Movies.” *Harry Houdini - Silent Movies*,

<https://www.thegreatharryhoudini.com/movies.html>. Accessed 5 January 2020.

This website contained information about many of the movies Houdini starred in. It helped us in writing our section about Houdini's movie career.

Landers, Jackson. “Escape Artist Harry Houdini Was an Ingenious Inventor, He Just Didn't Want

Anybody to Know.” *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 9 Jan. 2017,

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/harry-houdini-ingenious-innovator-didnt-want-anybody-know-180961078/>. Accessed 15 December 2020.

This website contained background information about Houdini's lesser-known accomplishments. A few examples include Houdini's film career and his aviation feats.

Mankey, Jason. “10 Important Nineteenth Century Occultists & Magicians.” *Raise the Horns*,

Patheos Explore the World's Faith through Different Perspectives on Religion and

Spirituality! Patheos Has the Views of the Prevalent Religions and Spiritualities of the

World., 21 May 2014,

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/panmankey/2014/05/10-important-nineteenth-century-occultists-magicians/>. Accessed 21 December 2019.

This website gave us background information on influential magicians in Houdini's time period. It helped with our section on Houdini's debunking spiritualism.

Mullin, Rita T. *Harry Houdini: Death Defying Showman*. Sterling, 2007.

This book was a good introduction to the world of Harry Houdini. It served as a basis for our timeline as well as further research into his childhood and accomplishments.

Silverman, Kenneth. *Houdini!: the Career of Ehrich Weiss*. Harper Perennial, 1997.

This book gave us almost all the information regarding Houdini's early life. It also gave us the basis for researching his career.

Smith, Robert. "The Magic Of Harry Houdini's Staying Power." *NPR*, NPR, 30 Oct. 2010,

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130921757>. Accessed 20

December 2019.

This website has interesting information on Houdini's impact on society. It explained not only his impact from when he was alive but now as well.

"The Early Life of Houdini." *Harry Houdini - Early Years*,

<https://www.thegreatharryhoudini.com/earlyyears.html>. Accessed 3 January 2020.

This site explained Houdini's early career, as well as how he trained to keep in shape for his escapes.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Harry Houdini." *Encyclopædia Britannica*,
Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 27 Oct. 2019,
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Harry-Houdini>. Accessed 12 December 2019.

This site offered a great overview of Houdini's life, which helped us in beginning our research.

"The Great Harry Houdini." *Harry Houdini - The Life of Harry Houdini*,
<https://www.thegreatharryhoudini.com/>. Accessed 15 December 2020.

This website gave us a large portion of background information to base our research on.