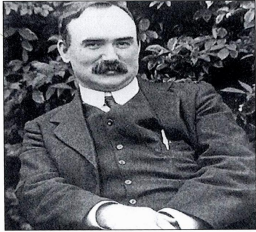


# Delving Deeper into James Connolly: Time in America 1902-1910

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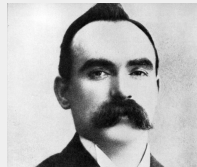
James Connolly, 1906

James Connolly's time in America is often overshadowed by his return to Ireland, involvement in Irish labor movements, and ultimate execution in 1916 for his role in the Easter Rising. This lack of focus means there is little secondary literature or information on this time in his life. However, Connolly's involvement in American labor disputes gave him the skills necessary for his later work in Ireland. He also wrote many of his most influential writings during his time in America including *Labour in Irish History*.

This past summer, we tried to learn more about Connolly's time in America by focusing on primary sources not often covered in the secondary literature. .

## O'Brien Papers

William O'Brien was a friend of James Connolly's. His papers contain letters and articles from or relating to James Connolly, including Connolly's correspondence with John Matheson that spanned many years and many countries. Although many of these letters are available in collections, the originals are always valuable.



The papers also contained an entire subsection on Connolly's dispute with Socialist Labor Party leader, Daniel De Leon. Connolly's views and practice of religion, or lack of, are one of the many mysteries surrounding his life and a fundamental part of his ultimate break with the SLP.

## New York Call

The New York Call was a daily newspaper printed in New York that reported on labor struggles and lectures all around the nation and the world.

James Connolly was based in and around New York City, so this newspaper was especially promising and it did not disappoint.

From going through microfilm scans of the newspaper, we identified notices of lectures by James Connolly, meetings of the Irish Socialist Federation (an organization he helped found), and ads for both his literature and intermittent newspaper, *The Harp*.



Bibliography  
New York Call. Microfilm.  
William Smith O'Brien Papers. National Library of Ireland.  
Reeve, Carl and Ann Barton Reeve. James Connolly and the United States: the road to the 1916 Irish rebellion. Humanities Press, 1987.