



Smithsonian American Art Museum

## **Brotherhood on Paper: Giacomo Patri and the Representation of Interracial Solidarity in the American Labor Movement**

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In his 1944 comic-book history of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Association, print artist Giacomo Patri showcases the racial integration of the San Francisco-based, CIO-member union. Typical of his commitment both to genuinely proletarian art and to interracial solidarity, Patri's commission is also symptomatic of the ideals of and challenges for industrial labor unions in their efforts toward workforce integration. Like other artists employed by the Congress of Industrial Organizations at this time, Patri documented, celebrated, and advocated for its interracial unionism, but his work also demonstrates that the visual and textual rhetoric of labor solidarity did not always perfectly align with the goals of racial integration and workplace egalitarianism. This research is one component of a larger book project entitled "Mixed Media: The Visual Cultures of Racial Integration, 1935–65."