Bartolomeo Vanzetti

Italian Anarchist Activist and Martyr of the State

(1888 - 1927)

**Description**: After they returned the two became more active in the anarchist community. Vanzetti began reading about industrial society and revolt and both began distributing anarchist and revolutionary literature. (From: Anarchy Archives)

**Tags**: anarchist, italian, labor unionist, propaganda of the deed, american, massachusetts.

**Quotes**:

"*Nameless, in the crowd of nameless ones, I have merely caught and reflected a little of the light from that dynamic thought or ideal which is drawing humanity towards better destinies.*" (From: "The Story of a Proletarian Life," by Bartolomeo Vanzetti.)

"*That was a sad year. What toiler does not remember it? The poor slept outdoors and rummaged the garbage barrels to find a cabbage leaf or a rotten potato. For three months I searched New York, its length and its breadth, without finding work.*" (From: "The Story of a Proletarian Life," by Bartolomeo Vanzetti.)
"Judge Webster Thayer, the same man who later presided at the murder trial imposed the sentence. There was not a vibration of sympathy in his tone when he did so. I wondered as I listened to him, why he hated me so. Is not a judge supposed to be impartial? But now I think I know - I must have looked like a strange animal to him, being a plain worker, an alien, and a radical to boot. And why was it that all my witnesses, simple people who were anxious to tell the simple truth, were laughed at and disregarded? No credence was given their words because they, too, were merely aliens...."
(From: "The Story of a Proletarian Life," by Bartolomeo Vanzetti.)

**Biography:**

Nicola Sacco was born in the Southern Italian small town of Torremaggiore on April 22, 1891. He emigrated to the United States in 1908. Upon arrival he learned the trade of shoe-edge trimming and got a job working at a shoe-company in Milford, MA. He soon married and fathered a son.

Bartolomeo Vanzetti was born on June 11, 1888. The Vanzetti family lived in Northern Italy in the town of Villafalletto. Vanzetti also emigrated to the United States in 1908. He worked as a kitchen helper in New York, and after losing his job drifted to Boston where he worked odd jobs and met Sacco.

Sacco and Vanzetti feared the draft during World War I and in objection fled to Mexico with Sacco's family. When the war ended both returned to their homes. After they returned the two became more active in the anarchist community. Vanzetti began reading about industrial society and revolt and both began distributing anarchist and revolutionary literature.
In 1920, the two were charged with robbery of a shoe factory and murder of the paymaster and payroll guard in South Braintree, MA. They were found returning to a vehicle spotted near the scene of the crime; both were armed but claimed that they intended to use the car to distribute anarchist literature. Vanzetti who had already been convicted of a crime was arrested without question.

Their trial lasted six weeks at the end of which, both parties were found guilty. Initially, their trial received little publicity until the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee caused a stir by insinuating that the case was not a legal battle, but an ideological struggle between the jury and Sacco and Vanzetti, who had quite different political views. Ultimately however these claims fell on deaf ears when the Supreme Court of Massachusetts ruled against Sacco and Vanzetti on April 9th 1927. Sacco and Vanzetti's execution date fell on August 23, 1927. While tens of thousands of people protested outside the doors of Boston's old Charlestown prison, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed by electric chair.

Citations: http://www.bookrags.com/biography/sacco-and-vanzetti/
http://www.biography.com/articles/Sacco-and-Vanzetti-9468790

From: Anarchy Archives.

Works:

Author of Vanzetti's Last Statement (December 31, 1969)
Author of Vanzetti to the Son of Sacco (December 31, 1969)
Author of Letters written in 1921-24 in Charlestown State Prison (December 31, 1969)
Author of Letters written in 1925 in the Bridgewater Hospital for the Criminally Insane (December 31, 1969)
Author of Letters written in 1925-April 1927 in Charlestown State Prison (December 31, 1969)
Author of Letters written in April-June 1927 in Dedham Jail (December 31, 1969)
Author of Letter to Governor Fuller, July 28, 1927 (July 28, 1927)
Author of Letters written August 21-22, 1927 from the Death House, Massachusetts State Prison (July 31, 1927)

Chronology:


Links :

• Anarchy Archives: Sacco and Vanzetti Archive
  http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bright/SaccoVan/SaccoVan.html

• Anarchist Library: Bartolomeo Vanzetti
  https://theanarchistlibrary.org/category/author/bartolomeo-vanzetti

• Wikipedia: Sacco and Vanzetti
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Tucker

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