In order to avoid further economic collapse during the Panic of 1907, "trust-busting" President Theodore Roosevelt set aside enforcement of antitrust laws, allowing US Steel, a major corporate trust, to buy out Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company. This political cartoon depicts Roosevelt sitting at a desk, revising his presidential plan by using scissors to cut out images of clubs (perhaps a reference to his mantra "speak softly and carry a big stick"?) underneath the headings "Corporations" and "Trusts." Several pieces of paper bearing images of clubs are in the waste paper basket or on the floor. In the background can be seen a building, labeled "financial system" and supported by three beams, which is about to collapse.
ARTIST:
John L. De Mar, 1865-1926; Biunno, Diane; Biunno, Diane; Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 1858-1919; Unknown