Quick Facts

• Spans more than 160 years (1842–2003)
• More than 7,000 issues
• Approximately 260,000 full-text searchable pages
• More than 1.5 million high-quality color facsimile images

Detailed Overview

SUMMARY: With its 1842 debut, The Illustrated London News became the world’s first fully illustrated weekly newspaper, marking a revolution in journalism. The publication presented a vivid picture of British and world events – including eyewitness accounts of war, descriptions of natural disasters, and reviews of arts and science.

SIGNIFICANCE: With its sweeping coverage of historical, social and cultural milestones, The Illustrated London News Historical Archive supports disciplines ranging from politics and economics to graphics and science. Use this collection as a foundation for scholars seeking primary sources, one-of-a-kind images and on-the-scene narratives.

SOURCE: The Illustrated London News was founded by Herbert Ingram, an entrepreneurial newsagent who noticed that newspapers sold more copies when they carried pictures. The inaugural issue covered a fire in Hamburg, Queen Victoria’s costume ball, the war in Afghanistan and the latest fashions in Paris. The publication commissioned a galaxy of great artists and illustrators to cover wars, royal events, scientific invention and exploration. In 1855 it launched the world’s first color supplement, further cementing The Illustrated London News as a publishing innovator.

STRUCTURE: In The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003, Gale grants students, researchers and enthusiasts unprecedented online access to the entire 160-year run of the newspaper.

• Every article, letter, advertisement and illustration is digitally reproduced in full color
• Each article and caption is full-text searchable with hit-term highlights and links to corresponding illustrations
• Article and illustration categories aid users in narrowing searches to the best results
• Special editions cover global events such as Napoleon’s visit to England (1855), the revolution in Portugal (1910) and the first photos from Mt. Everest (1933)

DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTORS: The popularity of The Illustrated London News drew some of the era’s finest writers and artists to its pages. The publication played host to Robert Louis Stevenson, Charles Dickens, Rudyard Kipling and Agatha Christie; contributing artists included Melton Prior, William Heath Robinson and Mabel Lucie Atwell. Scholars can find the complete works of every contributor in The Illustrated London News Historical Archive.
Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003

• More than 260,000 pages that comprise the entire run of the publication
• Bookmarking, saving, emailing and printing options simplify information-sharing
• Specially commissioned essays by key academics put Victorian and Edwardian journalism into context
• Personal user accounts save searches and results for later use
• Basic search is ideal to net the largest variety of applicable results
• Advanced search of documents by keyword, article title, caption or contributor pinpoints results for researchers
• Refine searches by publication date, article type, illustration type or special issues
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The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003 is included in the new Gale NewsVault platform. It supports in-depth scholarly research with the only cross-searchable and cross-browsable portfolio of domestic and international historical newspapers and magazines.

About Gale Digital Collections

Gale has changed the nature of research and education forever with Gale Digital Collections. We’ve opened a wealth of rare, formerly inaccessible historical content from the world’s most prestigious libraries to faculty, researchers and students. Gale Digital Collections represents an extraordinary resource, covering more than 500 years of international history.

Illustrated London News Historical Archive allows you to sort and search within results

Each article and caption is full-text searchable with links to corresponding illustrations

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