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Illustrated London News, 1842–2003

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Explore one of the most eye-catching...

Against Any Background—

Founded in 1842 by Herbert Ingram, *The Illustrated London News (ILN)* became a groundbreaking British publication. As a newsagent, Ingram saw that illustrated papers sold well and that people sought “London news”. Advances in printing technology, such as rotary presses, helped Ingram translate his vision of “illustrated news” into a reality.

The first edition, which appeared on 14 May 1842, sold 26,000 copies. It cost sixpence, featured 32 illustrations, and reported upon the young Queen Victoria’s first “Masquerade Ball”, as well as the “Great Fire of Hamburg”.

The paper targeted a broadly middle class readership, with Ingram’s embrace of liberalism ensuring that it backed reformist agendas, such as the plight of industrial workers and the need for better public amenities and urban infrastructure. Yet because Ingram embodied the Victorian ideal of the “self-made man”, the *ILN* was equally capable of sympathising with big business. It likewise espoused Britain’s imperial project.



By 1855, 130,000 copies were being sold weekly, a figure that had more than doubled by the early 1860s.



One of the most influential and successful publications in the history of British print media.

This impressive resource will enable students, researchers, and educators to investigate the history of modern Britain, and especially the history of British print journalism, in remarkable detail. This collection facilitates examination of an almost endless variety of historical events, concepts, and themes.

“Never a simple “reflection” of its times or of public attitudes, the paper was deeply involved in shaping both”

Patrick Leary, “A Brief History of the *Illustrated London News*”, *Illustrated London News Historical Archive* (2011)

... and pioneering ventures in British print media.



BOA’s extensive digital archive also hosts the back catalogues of the periodicals that were owned by the *ILN*, namely *Britannia and Eve*, *London Life*, *The Bystander*, *The Graphic*, *The Illustrated War News*, *The Sporting and Dramatic News*, *The Sketch*, *The Sphere*, and *The Tatler*.



The collection provides a rich, detailed view of the world over three centuries, covering monarchy, conflicts, politics, fashion, the British Empire, and entertainment.



This vast collection holds over 250,000 images from more than 7,000 issues of the periodical, spanning from 1842 to 2003.



Sources: *Illustrated London News (ILN)*