



'The Reconciliation', *Illustrated London News*, 21 November 1898. The *Illustrated London News* Historical Archive.

First colour newspaper pictures

The *Illustrated London News* illustrations go online

A DIGITIZATION PROJECT by Gale, part of Cengage Learning, and the *Illustrated London News Limited* is offering family historians the chance to view the events of the past through the eyes of their ancestors. The first fully illustrated weekly newspaper, begun in 1842, the *ILN* was hugely popular. The paper was also the first to print colour illustrations, from 1855, and now nearly three-quarters of a million full-colour pictures and photographs are available, providing an unrivalled pictorial chronicle of Britain and the world from the early Victorian era to the late 20th century.

Although the new archive will initially only be available through subscribing institutions, it's worth finding out if your local library or university plan to make it available in the future, as it's doubtless of great interest to family historians. As Seth Cayley, publisher at Gale, has said, 'the *Illustrated London News* Historical Archive 1842–2003 will help students, enthusiasts and those interested in genealogy to research social history, fashion, theatre, media, literature, advertising, graphic design and politics... As an eyewitness to

the past, it offers pictorial insight into events across the world.'

For more information contact emea.marketing@cengage.com or visit www.gale.cengage.co.uk/iln or <http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/illustrated-london-news.aspx>.

GUILD SETS UP FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES has set up a Fellowship Scheme to recognize members considered especially worthy of honour, through their level of expertise in genealogy and one-name studies and/or for their contribution to the running of the Guild. Each individual recognized will be known as a Master Craftsman of the Guild. The awards are based on nominations by Guild members and a voting process carried out by the Guild Trustees. Guild Chairman Peter Hagger announced the first recipients at the AGM/Conference in Oxford on 10 April. They were Howard Benbrook, Susan Meates, Andrew Millard, Paul Millington, Derek Palgrave, Chris Pomery, Roy Rayment, Roy Stockdill, Iain Swinnerton, Ken Toll and Peter Walker.



National Archives of Scotland.

NAS document reveals Nessie's government protection

IN THE 1930s the Loch Ness legend presented Scottish ministers with a unique problem, as a government file at the NAS (HH1/588) attests. After alleged sightings in 1933 the Scottish Office was asked to confirm the existence of a 'sea serpent' in the loch. A question was tabled in the Commons (and ridiculed by the press) asking whether there would be an investigation.

It was proposed that observers could take photographs, and aerial observation was suggested. It was decided, though, to leave the monster be. But monster hunters continued to congregate and the government questioned whether to protect 'Nessie'. A letter from the Chief Constable of Inverness-shire, when confronted with one expedition, concluded 'that there is some strange creature seems now beyond doubt'. Meanwhile, Nessie continues to appear ... For the full story, visit www.nas.gov.uk. The documents are part of the NAS's Open Secret exhibition (until 30 June).