

The Telegraph

Historical Archive, 1855–2000

The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2000 is the fully searchable digital archive of what was once the world's largest selling newspaper. Researchers and students can full text search across 1 million pages of the newspaper's backfile from its first issue to the end of 2000 including issues of the *Sunday Telegraph* from 1961.

The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2000 provides a fascinating picture of politics, society and culture during the past century and a half, giving the news as it was experienced at the time. The archive supports research across multiple disciplines including business, arts, international relations, science and philosophy with coverage of all major events through the course of the 20th century and the last half of the 19th century.

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About The Telegraph

Launched in 1855, *The Telegraph* was the first 1d morning paper (*The Times* was 7d). By 1876, *The Telegraph* was the largest selling newspaper in the world, with a circulation of 300,000. The newspaper was directed at a wealthy, educated readership and is commonly associated with traditional Toryism, despite its more 'liberal' beginnings; however this shifted in the late 1870s, when the newspaper began to support Prime Minister Disraeli over the Eastern Question.

Under the editorship of poet and Orientalist Edwin Arnold (from 1873 to 1899), the paper published widely on foreign affairs and foreign cultures. This led to *The Telegraph's* coverage of Henry Morton Stanley's expedition to Africa in search of David Livingstone, which it co-sponsored with the *New York Herald*.

The Telegraph is generally seen by press historians as the start of a new era of journalism that emerged following the repeal of stamp duty and marked the first step towards the mass-market journalism of the *Daily Mail*.

Content highlights

The Kaiser Wilhelm affair: in 1908, the *Daily Telegraph* published an infamous interview with Kaiser Wilhelm, the German chancellor. The transcript for the interview was apparently not read by German President Bernhard von Bulow, leaving it to be submitted to the *Telegraph* for publishing. The Kaiser's 'uncensored' comments were on display for the world to see, creating a diplomatic furore successfully alienating Britain (he suggested that German people had no care for the British, claiming 'you English are mad, mad, mad as march hares'), France and Russia (he implied that France and Russia had tried to persuade Germany to enter the Boer War against the British) and Japan (he suggested that the German naval build-up was aimed more at Japan than Britain).

The cryptic crossword puzzle (as featured in the recent film *The Imitation Game*) was circulated to recruit Allied codebreakers during the Second World War and was published in *The Telegraph* on 13 January 1942. Those who completed the puzzle within the 12-minute deadline were contacted by the War Office regarding a matter 'of national importance' and these successful candidates became code-breakers at Bletchley Park.

Notable contributors

George Augustus Sala (1828-1895): One of the most famous (if not *the* most famous) journalists of the day who became the newspaper's flagship writer. Sala pioneered a more lively, personal style of journalism and was known for travelling with a revolver, corkscrew and dress suit. He reported from all over the world, from places including Russia, North Africa, Australia and Mexico and was celebrated for his coverage of the US Civil War.

Winston Churchill: Churchill's first journalistic content is contained within the pages of *The Telegraph*. His series of war letters from India appeared in the paper at the close of the nineteenth century when Churchill was a young, 22-year-old army officer.



14th August 1991



4th August 1914



20th December 1998



20th December 1998



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