

The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2000

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

Providing a balance of personal interest stories alongside incisive analysis, *The Telegraph Historical Archive, 1855-2000* offers a fascinating glimpse into daily life as it was experienced over the past 150 years. 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 twentieth century and the second half of the nineteenth century. The availability of large-scale delivery of collection data and metadata through Gale's text and data mining program enhances the opportunities for this collection in digital humanities and social sciences scholarship.

Further deepening Gale's coverage of the British national newspaper press, The Telegraph is a superb complement to other newspaper titles in *Gale Artemis: Primary Sources*, providing an alternative voice to titles such as The Times and the Daily Mail for researchers.



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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. The Telegraph shifted to a more conservative political position in the late 1870s, when the newspaper began to support Prime Minister Disraeli over the “Eastern Question” of the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

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*.

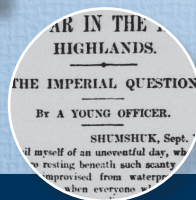
The Telegraph is generally seen by press historians as the start of a new era of journalism that emerged following the repeal of stamp duty and marked the first step toward the mass-market journalism of the *Daily Mail*.



June 29, 1855
Daily Telegraph & Courier launched by Colonel Arthur Sleight, edited by Alfred Bate Richards



1876
The Telegraph has the self-proclaimed “largest circulation in the world”



October 6–December 6, 1897
Winston Churchill contributes a series of articles from the Malakand campaign



October 28, 1908
An interview with Kaiser Wilhelm II that raises diplomatic eyebrows is published

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Notable Contributors & Content Highlights

- **George Augustus Sala (1828-1895):** One of the most famous journalists of the day; a reporter-celebrity 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. He also reported on the U.S. 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, army officer.
- **The Daily Telegraph/Kaiser Wilhelm affair:** in 1908, the Daily Telegraph published an infamous interview with Kaiser Wilhelm, the German chancellor. The Kaiser's uncensored comments were published in full for the world to see, 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 film *The Imitation Game*)** which was circulated to recruit Allied codebreakers during the Second World War was published in The Telegraph on 13 January 1942. Unbeknown at the time the puzzle was published, those who completed the puzzle within the 12-minute deadline were contacted by the War Office regarding a matter "of national importance." Successful candidates became code-breakers at Bletchley Park.



Complementary Gale Digital Collections

- Daily Mail Historical Archive, 1896-2004
- The Times Digital Archive
- The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003
- 19th Century British Newspapers
- Nineteenth Century Collections Online: British Politics and Society



July 30, 1925
First daily crossword in a British newspaper is published in The Telegraph



July 7, 1934
The reporting of the Night of the Long Knives sees the paper banned in Germany until July 27



April 1947
Circulation rises over one million for the first time



November 15, 1994
The Electronic Telegraph is launched as the first British daily newspaper website

