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THE SKETCH, 1893-1958

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View the dramatic transformations of the twentieth century...

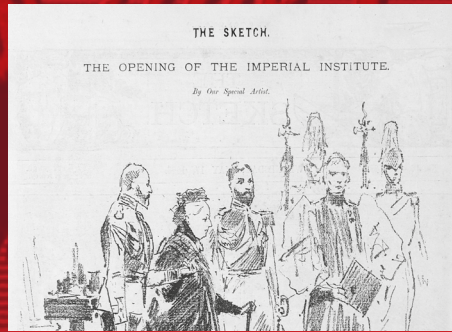
Established in 1893, and in circulation until 1958, *The Sketch* centred primarily on British High Society, and attracted a wealthy audience.

Replete with photographs and illustrations, it provided extensive coverage of aristocratic and celebrity culture for nearly seven decades, in both wartime and peacetime.

Though *The Sketch* generally adopted a light-hearted tone and targeted readers wishing “to pleasantly occupy a few minutes otherwise tedious”, it printed the work of many eminent artists, and endeavoured to keep its readers abreast of current affairs.



This collection contains almost 170,000 images from approximately 3,500 issues of *The Sketch*.



The Sketch was part of a series of publications under the ownership of *The Illustrated London News*.

Nevertheless, it remained a staunch defender of Britain’s imperial project, and often reflected the racist and xenophobic attitudes prevalent within British society.

This collection contains useful material for those studying and researching the history of art, literature, and print culture. Most importantly, it also sheds light on the history of British imperialism and colonialism, including the institution of slavery.

“The only true history of a country is to be found in its newspapers.” - *Thomas Macaulay*

Sources include: *Illustrated London News*

... through the lens of British High Society



The periodical featured articles on fashion, literature, and gossip. At the same time, its articles on current affairs reflected a conservative and, often, racist perspective (including uncritical reports of both slavery and the slave trade).



At times, *The Sketch* stood at the forefront of Britain’s literary movements, publishing the first stories by writers such as Agatha Christie and Walter de la Mare.



The Sketch printed the work of artists such as renowned watercolourist Helen Allingham and George E. Studly, creator of the famous “Bonzo the Dog” cartoons.

Over 4 million records covering 1000 years of world history: from politics & warfare, to slavery & revolution.



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