



The SPHERE

The Sphere, 1900-1964

Collection Summary

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THE SPHERE, 1900-1964

Established in 1900 and in circulation until 1964, *The Sphere* remained under the ownership of *The Illustrated London News (ILN)* for most of its existence.

Clement Shorter – a former editor of the ILN – founded the publication. From its first issue *The Sphere* adopted a consciously international outlook, aiming to “**hold pictures and thoughts from all lands**”. Upon its release, it was praised as “**a striking advance in illustrated journalism**” due to the beauty and artistry of its presentation. It soon became highly popular. **This collection includes nearly 160,000 images and almost 4,000 issues** from *The Sphere*, published between January 1900 and June 1964.

The Sphere reflected a **patriotic and staunchly pro-establishment position**, routinely expressing support for the British monarchy and Empire. With its global focus, the publication reported extensively on world events, such as **the rise of communism; the First and Second World Wars; and the Arab-Israeli conflict**. It printed articles discussing a wide range of prominent personalities from the arts, sciences, and politics – **from John Ruskin to Albert Einstein; from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Golda Meir**. It also featured contributions from well-known literary figures such as **acclaimed children’s author A. A. Milne and prolific journalist Charles Graves**.

Consequently, this collection contains vital material for researchers and students of British society, military history, and the legacies of colonialism.

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