



# The SPHERE

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THE SPHERE, 1900-1964

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## Trace over sixty years of British and global history...

Established in 1900 by Clement Shorter – a former editor of *The Illustrated London News* (ILN) – and in print until 1964, *The Sphere* adopted a consciously international outlook. Upon its release, it was praised as “a striking advance in illustrated journalism” due to the beauty and artistry of its presentation.



*The Sphere* was part of a series of periodicals under the ownership of the ILN.

With its global focus, *The Sphere* 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.



Sandwich time is always popular when it means Fray Bentos Pastes; the tastiest you can buy.

This collection contains nearly 160,000 images from almost 4,000 issues of *The Sphere*.

*The Sphere* reflected a patriotic and staunchly pro-establishment position, routinely expressing support for the British monarchy and Empire. Consequently, this collection contains vital material for researchers and students of British society, military history, and the legacies of colonialism.

*The Sphere* is an invaluable source for those studying the development of British manufacturing and consumerism, with adverts from familiar brands, such as Rolls-Royce, Rowntree’s, and McVitie’s.

“The centre of *The Sphere* will be in London, but its surface will hold pictures and thoughts from all lands.” - *The Sphere*, 27th January 1900

Sources include: Illustrated London News

## ...from the World Wars to the decline of the Empire



*The Sphere* maintained a patriotic and conservative worldview: its first issue, published in January 1900, declared that “*The Sphere* stands for England, the Mother of Parliaments, the Giver of Free Institutions to half the World...”



From the 1940s, *The Sphere* dedicated much of its attention to the evolution of military technology, with regular articles on the latest weaponry and armaments.



*The Sphere* often adopted a hostile attitude towards working-class movements. Perhaps inadvertently, it thus reflected the profound inequalities in British society.

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



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