



# THE BYSTANDER

The Bystander, 1903-1940

Collection Summary

**B** BRITISH ONLINE  
ARCHIVES

Main Street, East Ardsley, Wakefield, WF3 2AP, UK

[info@britishonlinearchives.digital](mailto:info@britishonlinearchives.digital)

[britishonlinearchives.digital](http://britishonlinearchives.digital)

## THE BYSTANDER, 1903-1940

---

Established in 1903 by George Holt Thomas (the son of illustrator and social reformer William Luson Thomas, founder of *The Graphic*), *The Bystander* ultimately joined a series of publications belonging to ***The Illustrated London News (ILN)***. In 1940 *The Bystander* merged with its sister title: *The Tatler*. It thus became known as *The Tatler and Bystander*. Much like its successor, *The Bystander* focused on British “high society”, thereby appealing to a conservative, affluent readership. Publishing articles on fashion, theatre, and sports, this publication reflected everyday life amongst Britain’s social elite, its coverage typically defined by a suitably whimsical, satirical tone. **This collection includes over 136,000 images collated from nearly 2,000 issues of *The Bystander*, published between December 1903 and October 1940.**

*The Bystander* supplied light-hearted reading. Within its pages one could find the latest gossip on the aristocracy, advice on antiques, and reports on the fishing and hunting seasons. Yet it also provided a platform for some of the most influential writers and artists of the day. It **published short stories by celebrated authors such as Daphne du Maurier and Hector Hugh Munro — better known by his pseudonym “Saki” — as well as contributions from cartoonist and humourist Bruce Bairnsfather (most notably his popular “Old Bill” cartoons about the First World War)**. *The Bystander* yields exciting material for those working in the fields of literary studies, the history of art, and social history. Much like other titles contained within *British Illustrated Periodicals, 1869–1970*, *The Bystander* reflected the racism and discrimination that pervaded British society during the heyday of the Empire. It is a rich resource for students and researchers wishing to explore the themes of colonialism, ethnicity, and race within modern history.

Visit Collection 



# **B** BRITISH ONLINE ARCHIVES



[britishonlinearchives.digital](http://britishonlinearchives.digital)