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THE GRAPHIC, 1869-1932



Encounter some of the most important innovations...

Founded in 1869 by artist and social reformer William Luson Thomas, *The Graphic* remained in circulation until 1932. Initially, it was a competitor of *The Illustrated London News (ILN)*. Though it reflected the conservatism and staunch imperialism of Britain's ruling classes, *The Graphic* drew attention to social issues such as poverty, homelessness, and public health.

The Graphic played an important role in the development of the arts. It pub-



The Graphic eventually became part of a series of periodicals owned by the ILN.

lished literature, theatre reviews, and some of the most beautiful illustrations in contemporary print media. It featured work by celebrated writers and artists, including the pioneering painter, director, and composer, Hubert Herkomer; the satirical and fantastical illustrator, Sidney Herbert Sime; the distinguished sculptor, Malvina Hoffman; the eminent Romantic author, Victor Hugo; and the celebrated author and poet, Thomas Hardy.



This collection contains nearly 117,000 images from almost 3,500 issues of *The Graphic*.

Given the quality and diversity of its artistic content, its wide-ranging commentary, and its vivid depictions of everyday life, *The Graphic* captures the dramatic transformations that occurred within British society throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is a rich resource for students and scholars interested in British cultural, social, and political history; the history of art; and the history of print media.

"Thomas distinguished *The Graphic...*by maintaining higher artistic standards...and giving creative freedom to his draughtsmen" — Andrea Korda

Sources include: Illustrated London News

...in nineteenth and twentieth century European art.



Like other *ILN*-owned titles of the period, *The Graphic* was supportive of the British monarchy and the Empire. It reported extensively upon Ireland, opposing Home Rule and independence. It often exoticised non-European cultures.



Contributors to *The Graphic* were often at the forefront of artistic movements, such as the emerging social realism of the late nineteenth century.



The Graphic kept its readers informed about scientific and technological developments, including the transformation of the world's cityscapes.

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