

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

This Saturday Snippets explored the vast array of contemporary illustrations and articles, many by famous artists, engravers and writers, to be found in the volumes of the *Illustrated London News* founded in May 1842. Nearly everyone has heard of it, but few delve into its pages. The annual volumes on the inner library shelves of the DEI run up to 1893 and provide the reader and researcher with an invaluable insight into Victorian aristocratic and working class society, technological advances and the various international exhibitions devoted to them, the growth of leisure and sporting activities, Imperial ambitions and the numerous wars caused by them, and the world that was expanding through exploration, colonialism and trade. The illustrations – all hand drawn up until the first printed photographs in the 1890s – and the accompanying articles provided readers then, and now, with an engrossing insight and commentary (usually nationalistic but frequently caustic) into current affairs. Often they provide an unusual, and thought-provoking, slant on emerging issues.

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