



Historical Archive 1841–1992

About Punch

From 1841 to 1992 *Punch* was the world's most celebrated magazine of humour and satire – imitated, parodied and pirated from America to India and Japan.

From its early years as a campaigner for social justice (though aimed firmly at the burgeoning middle class) to its transformation in the mid-19th century into national icon and pillar of the Establishment, *Punch* played a central role in the formation of British identity – and how the rest of the world saw the British.



About Punch Historical Archive 1841–1992

This fully searchable online archive is an unrivalled resource for researching and teaching 19th and 20th century political and social history, containing approximately 200,000 pages from all issues of *Punch* between 1841–1992, including Almanacks and other special numbers, as well as prefaces, epilogues, indexes and other specially produced material from the bound volumes. The intuitive online platform offers researchers, students and the general user multiple search paths into exploring c. 7,900 issues. Images originally published in full colour appear in full colour in the archive.

To register for a trial or request pricing please email emea.galereply@cengage.com



Punch Historical Archive, 1841–1992 is part of the Gale NewsVault programme. Gale NewsVault delivers the definitive cross-searching experience for exploring Gale's range of historical newspaper collections, including the *Times Digital Archive*, *Picture Post* and *The Listener*. Providing access to over 11 million digitised facsimile pages, and more than 400 years of content, Gale NewsVault provides an unparalleled window to the past.

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The Cartoons of *Punch*

Punch's renowned full-page political cartoons – the Big Cuts – by legendary artists like Tenniel, Sambourne, Partridge, E H Shepard and Illingworth had the power to sway governments and influence political elites.



Punch's 'social' cartoons captured the vast shifts in life over the 19th and 20th centuries, recording the impact of rapid technological and social change in drawings by artists like Leech and du Maurier in the 19th century and H M Bateman and Searle in the 20th.

Punch's visual iconography became cultural reference points, establishing symbols like John Bull, Britannia and the British Lion firmly in the public imagination.



The Writing of *Punch*

Punch published some of the finest comic writers in the English language from W M Thackeray to P G Wodehouse, E M Delafield and Alan Coren. Gale, part of Cengage Learning is pleased to be collaborating with Liverpool John Moores University on the transcription of the *Punch* contributor ledgers from 1843–1919. With contributions to the magazine unattributed to 1902, information from the ledgers will be incorporated into the *Punch Historical Archive*, allowing users to identify contributors and better understand the nature of the magazine and the Victorian periodical press.

Key Research Themes

World War One and World War Two:

Whether reflecting British political and social attitudes on the Home Front or commenting on international affairs, the pages of *Punch* are key sources for depictions of World War One and World War Two. Historian Asa Briggs wrote that the World War Two numbers of *Punch* 'recapture the mood of the period perhaps more evocatively than any other source'.

Wars and Conflicts: *Punch* commented on conflicts from the Crimean War to the Suez Crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Cold War, looking in the 20th century at the roles of new international organisations like the League of Nations and the United Nations.

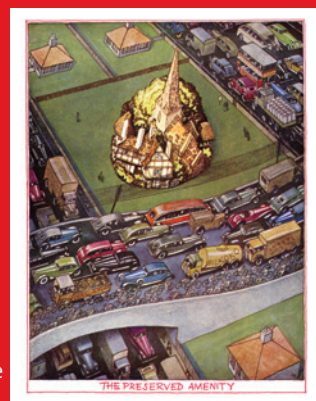
Colonialism, Imperialism and End of Empire: From Ireland to India, the Scramble for Africa and the Palestine Mandate, *Punch* commented on the zenith and decline of the British Empire.



Impact of New Technology and Modernity: Reactions to urbanisation and industrialisation, new forms of transportation, technology and communication, scientific theories of evolution and the atomic age all appeared in the pages of *Punch*.

Public Health, Conservation and Environmentalism:

The rapid growth of the city and the spread of the railways led to rising concerns in *Punch* over pollution, public health and protecting fragile landscapes in the 19th century, to the environmentalism of the 1960s and 1970s.



Social Change: *Punch* was an acute observer of a changing society documenting family life, Thirties unemployment, the Welfare State, postwar immigration, shifts in fashion, leisure, and entertainment.

Role of Women: Researchers will find a wealth of material on women's equality, the 'New Woman', suffragettes, women in the workplace, and women during two world wars.



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