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A Divine Kerfuffle
Dramaturg

1890s European Newspaper Companies

- Aberdeen Press and Journal
- The Daily Telegraph
- The Times
- The Standard
- Lloyd's Weekly News
- Reynold's Weekly Newspaper
- Birmingham Daily Post
- Banffshire Journal
- Belfast News-Letter
- Daily Chronicle
- Daily News
- Dundee Courier
- Echo
- Leeds Mercury
- London Evening Standard
- Manchester Evening News
- Manchester Guardian
- Morning Advertiser
- Northern Daily Express
- Newcastle Daily Chronicle
- Northampton Post
- Northern Echo
- Pall Mall Gazette
- Globe
- Morning Post
- Yorkshire Post

News Agencies

Largest in Great Britain: Reuters

Largest in France: Agence France-Presse

The Presence of the Press

The Industrial Revolution brought technology that greatly impacted the Press. Thanks to the steam-driven “double-press”, *The Times* was able to print 5,000 copies an hour. The Fourdriner machine sent the wooden press into extinction, as it allowed pressing books and newspapers to be a lot smoother. The first company in Britain to obtain the new Linotype machine, which brought the first typing, was Newcastle Chronicle in 1889. By the time 1895 rolled around, almost every newspaper company in London was utilizing this technology.

Thanks to the telephone that came about after the Industrial Revolution, communicating with ease completely changed what was published in newspapers. It aided the upbringing of the reporter’s job. The reporters would go and get news, and because of the telephone, they were able to get it back to their newspaper companies in a highly effective time. Reporters became heroes for their newspaper companies and especially the editor.

Newspaper companies had a hard time employing lots of reporters due to expenses, and thus came News Agencies. News Agencies hired reporters and sold information to different types of media outlets, including newspaper companies and press agencies. Some cities had larger news agencies, which combined their newspapers, radios, and television to spread news about local government, police, general news, etc. When available, they also reported on sports, the stock market, and elections.

Celebrity Journalism

In the 1890s magazines and newspaper articles solely about celebrities of the stage began to rise in popularity. News Agencies would send reporters to theatres and have them get the scoop by seeing the show and trying to talk to the star after. With the telephone, they’d report back to the agency. They published celebrities because that is what people really want to read about.

These reporters would also go to films as they began to rise. Early film producers would cast stars of the stage to lure in audiences as well as reporters. One example was the 1896 film, *The Kiss*. It starred May Irwin, a popular theatre actress. The reporters would do similar things to when they saw plays. They would see the film and then write about it. If a star was at the showing of the film, they’d try to get a quote from them.

The press of this time, specifically with celebrity journalism does have some similarities to today. The reporters were sometimes very aggressive to try and get a story for their agency or paper, meaning they would sometimes get in the face of stars or just continuously hound their questions. That is pretty similar to today’s press, because today’s press does stuff even worse than what was previously mentioned, like invading the privacy of people’s homes.

Sources

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