

# Large print guide

## Manchester's Guardian: 200 years of the Manchester Guardian

### **Facts are Sacred**

On the 5 May 1821, the first edition of the Manchester Guardian was printed. Since that day, the Guardian has established itself as a liberal, progressive newspaper committed to reporting on friend and foe alike. From opposing Britain's imperialistic Boer War to printing Edward Snowden's exposé on the erosion of personal privacy, the Guardian has not shirked difficult truths. For two centuries, it has upheld honest, progressive journalism even when unpopular viewpoints affected circulation.

This Manchester-born institution long outgrew its roots, transforming itself from a local newspaper to a global brand but never departing from its founding values.

## **Parts of a MacBook Pro Model A139B**

c. 2010

This smashed laptop once held secrets leaked by American whistle-blower Edward Snowden. Alan Rusbridger, then editor of the Guardian, took considerable risks printing Snowden's story. The revelations revealed multiple global surveillance programmes run by the US National Security Agency. Guardian staff destroyed the laptop on 20 July 2013 under orders from the British Government.

Ref. GUA/12/5/1/4 Guardian News & Media Archive

## **The Snowden affair: national security, liberty, privacy and the role of a free press**

The Guardian, London, 2013

Intelligence leaked from the US National Security Agency sent shockwaves around the world, sparking debate about the relationship between the government and the public over issues of security and privacy.

Ref. HRL/3092 Guardian News & Media Archive

## **Printing the Truth**

From the early 1930s, and at considerable risk to reporters and informants, the Manchester Guardian was one of the few English newspapers to criticise Hitler forcefully. Letters between Berlin-based reporter Frederick Voigt and the paper's editor WP Crozier reveal how the paper worked to expose the violence and antisemitism that lay at the heart of Nazi ideology.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Manchester Guardian was banned from Germany in spring 1933. Shortly afterwards, a public meeting held at Manchester's Free Trade Hall praised the Guardian for exposing the antisemitic Nazi regime. Mancunians were proud to have a paper that 'expressed the feelings of every decent-minded man and woman on this matter'.

### **Letter from Frederick Voigt to William Crozier**

Berlin, 14 July 1932

Voigt fears truthful accounts of Adolf Hitler will appear sensationalist to British audiences. He states that his report describes him 'as mildly as possible ... to avoid raising incredulity'.

Ref. GDN/206/207a

## **Letter from Frederick Voigt to William Crozier**

Paris, 18 December 1933

Journalists reporting on Nazi Germany took great personal risks. The second page of this letter chillingly notes that the Nazis were 'determined to silence the M.G at any cost.'

Ref. GDN/210/256a

## **Letter from William Crozier to Frederick Voigt**

Manchester, 23 August 1933

Crozier suggests that the German ambassador, recognising the importance of English public opinion, worked to lift the recent ban on the Manchester Guardian in Nazi Germany.

Ref. GDN/209/126

## **Telegram from Robert Dell to the editor of the Manchester Guardian**

Place unknown, c. 6–10 May 1933

This urgent telegram requests that the names of those providing the intelligence on the burning of the German Parliament (the Reichstag) are not printed in the article for their own protection.

Ref. GDN/208/15

## **April Fools**

On 1 April 1977, the Guardian printed a seven-page feature on San Serriffe, a fictional archipelago floating in the Indian Ocean.

With maps, photographs and reports by the paper's usual writers, the feature was very credible. Aided by major companies, including Guinness, Kodak and Texaco, the elaborate San Serriffe prank included spoof advertisements to make the joke even more realistic.

The joke was at the expense of a readership with patchy geographical knowledge and stereotypical views of far-off places and 'foreigners.' Its success in tricking a nation rests on our willingness to believe a reputable newspaper such as the Guardian.

## **The Guardian, San Serriffe supplement**

1 April 1977

The first page set the scene with a map of San Serriffe. The two main islands, Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse 'grouped roughly in the shape of a semi colon' ushered in a series of typesetting jokes.

Ref. R235187

## **Letter from Horatio Baskerville-Berling to a Regular Guinness Drinker**

London, April 1977

Guardian readers taking advantage of a San Serriffe Guinness promotion received this letter along with their glass. Unfortunately, the glass accompanying this letter has not survived.

Ref. R235187

## **Extract from Guardian, San Serriffe supplement**

1 April 1977

Oceanic currents set San Serriffe on a collision course with Sri Lanka. The Guardian's own Science Correspondent, Anthony Tucker, lends the piece an air of authority backed up by a diagram from the fictional Institute of Indian Ocean Marine Sciences.

Ref. R235187

Reproduced courtesy of Guardian News and Media

San Serriffe was intended as a joke, but where is the line between 'fun' and 'fake' news?

Today, false information spreads quickly and widely through digital and social media, posing a significant threat to democracies around the world.

"The truth is a struggle. It takes hard graft. But the struggle is worth it: traditional news values are important and they matter and they are worth defending."

Katharine Viner, current editor of the Guardian

## **Humanitarianism**

Under the editorship of CP Scott, the Manchester Guardian established itself as a moral voice condemning unjust war, supporting victims of conflict and championing global humanitarian causes. It was the only major newspaper to challenge the imperial ambitions of the British government in southern Africa during the Boer War (1899-1902).

Despite the government's policy of non-intervention, the Guardian committed itself to reporting the plight of civilians during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Unusually for the time, female correspondents submitted first-hand reports on the desperate situation of women and children in both South Africa and Spain. Emily Hobhouse and Nancy Cunard took personal risk reporting from war zones.



## **Letter from LT Hobhouse to CP Scott**

Manchester, 7 November 1900

### **Ornamental page-turner**

Ceylon, 1902

Manchester Guardian journalist, LT Hobhouse, introduced his sister to CP Scott in November 1900. Her accounts, printed in the Guardian, exposed how the Boers (settlers of Dutch descent) were evicted from their farms and placed in concentration camps.

Boer prisoners of war, held captive by the British in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), were grateful for the Manchester Guardian's support. They presented this wooden newspaper page-turner as a token of their appreciation.

Ref. GDN/132/102 and GAU/12/4/1

## **Letter from Fridtjof Nansen to CP Scott**

London, 24 October 1923

Nansen used his personal relationship with the editor of the Manchester Guardian to further his humanitarian work. This letter expresses gratitude for coverage of the Greek refugee crisis and for previously reporting the Russian Famine.

Ref. GDN A/N3/2

## **Telegram from Nancy Cunard**

Perpignan, France, c. 31 January 1939

Cunard's telegram records the humanitarian crisis in Spain - 'half a million starving Spanish refugees. Situation catastrophic'. The editor Crozier invited Cunard to write a letter of appeal, which was then published in the Manchester Guardian.

Ref. GDN B/C290A/19

Reproduced courtesy of the estate of Nancy Cunard

## **Card advertising a meeting on the Transvaal Crisis**

Oldham, October 1899

Editor CP Scott and the lead feature writer, LT Hobhouse, were active in the Manchester Transvaal Committee. The group campaigned for an honourable peace in disputed regions of southern Africa at a time of heightened jingoism when imperial ambition was popular with the British public.

Ref. MTC/39

## **Anti-War?**

Manchester has a long association with anti-war causes. Local Quaker MP John Bright condemned the Crimean War (1853-56) while the Manchester Guardian offered steadfast opposition to the Boer War (1899-1902). The Guardian's stance attracted both heartfelt praise and bitter condemnation.

Yet little over a decade later, the Guardian broke ranks with the pacifists. Emily Hobhouse, a former Boer War correspondent, and the former Labour Party leader, Keir Hardie, were surprised to find that CP Scott supported the First World War (1914-18) and viewed opposition futile.

## **Letter from AWC to the editor of the Manchester Guardian**

Liverpool, 23 March 1900

Some readers were supportive of the paper's stance on the Boer War. The semi-anonymous AWC praises the Manchester Guardian for having 'real grit' in opposing the war concluding that 'truth is a higher thing than personal profit.'

Ref. GDN/324/7/42

## **Letter from J Huxley to the editor of the Manchester Guardian**

Oswestry, 28 October 1899

Many readers cancelled their subscriptions in response to the Manchester Guardian's 'unpatriotic' stance over the Boer War. This angry reader laments the editor's 'invincible prejudice against [his] own country in favour of the Boers.'

Ref. GDN/324/7/8

## **Letter from CP Scott to Emily Hobhouse**

Manchester, 19 Dec 1914

Scott explains that he sees no tension in supporting the First World War as it 'stands on a wholly different footing' to the Boer War. The Guardian's support for the First World War was in tune with public opinion.

Ref. GDN/333/162

## **The Guardian Family**

From caretakers to clerks, reporters to typists, the Manchester Guardian employed a range of workers. CP Scott likened his staff to a 'boat's crew, pulling well together, each man doing his best because he likes it, and with a common and glorious goal'.

The paper valued its staff in and out of work time. On-site benefits included a canteen and lending library. Sports clubs, train excursions and picnics encouraged staff to socialise outside of work. Workers became a close-knit family, sharing in life's highs and lows.

The 'Ho Jo' was the nickname given to the monthly staff newsletter, the 'House Journal' that ran between 1918 and 1932. Its pages offer an intriguing glimpse into the lives of Guardian employees from cooks, cleaners, porters and errand boys to typesetters, reporters and the editor himself. The stories range from the prosaic events of office life: dances, trips, weddings and births to touching tributes to those killed in the First World War.

## **The House Journal**

Manchester, January 1928

Births, marriages and sporting triumphs were recorded in this monthly staff newsletter. The back page advertised dances, social events and sometimes the staff canteen menu.

Ref GDN/324/8/10

## **Manchester Guardian staff addresses and phone numbers**

Manchester, 1927–8

The staff directory was an essential tool to help contact employees at home. Can we guess the status of staff by where they live and whether they had a home telephone number?

Ref. GDN/223/16/4

## **Coronation picnic invitation**

Manchester, 12 August 1911

To celebrate the Coronation of George V, the Guardian invited its entire staff to a picnic at Matlock Bath in Derbyshire. The party travelled by train and were treated to a tea in the New Pavilion.

Ref. GDN/Add Box 2

## **Letter from Deirdre Gooder to Alastair Hetherington**

East Grinstead, Sussex, 20 February 1958

Donny Davies, the sports correspondent for the Manchester Guardian, perished in the Munich Air Disaster. His daughter's poignant letter that says the stopping of the printing presses on news of his death was of great comfort to his family.

Ref. GDN /223/35/170

**‘Cooks, Dining Room etc’ from Centenary Album**  
Manchester, 1921

To mark the newspaper’s centenary, CP Scott was presented with a photographic album. Inside, division-by-division, all his staff were recorded. Even those who missed the photography day were added in afterwards.

Ref. GDN/140/2

## **Manchester and the World**

The Manchester Guardian was intimately bound up with Manchester's history. Launched in 1821 by a group of cotton manufacturers and industrialists interested in political reform, the Guardian was a liberal progressive voice at a time when the industrial north was leading the country's prosperity. Its founder, John Edward Taylor, was present at the Peterloo Massacre, which cemented the newspaper's reformist credentials.

In August 1959, there was a chorus of disapproval when the Guardian dropped 'Manchester' from its title. For many years, most sales were outside of the city.

Overseas sales were substantial too. The Guardian Weekly, launched in 1919, remains a popular 'foreign' language news magazine around the world today.

## **Agreement between John Edward Taylor and 11 others**

Manchester 28 April 1821

John Edward Taylor was the founder and first editor of the Manchester Guardian. This legal agreement records the names of 11 men who each contributed £100 towards the launch costs.

Ref. GDN/260/42



## **Manchester Civic Week**

Manchester Guardian, 2 October 1926

This beautifully illustrated supplement celebrated Manchester's industrial and civic achievements. The stylised front cover shows the role of manufacturing and the Ship Canal in Manchester's prosperity.

Ref. GDN/251

## **Letter from PH Hamer to the editor of the Manchester Guardian**

Cape Town, 22 August 1959

Mr Hamer, originally a Manchester man, laments the loss of 'Manchester' from the masthead. The second page lists all the things the city means to him from Peterloo, the ship canal and Albert Square to the Manchester Guardian.

Ref. GDN/223/38/28

## **Letter from WA Blyth to the editor of the Manchester Guardian**

Fajara, Gambia, 22 August 1959

Mr Blyth poetically congratulates the Manchester Guardian on its new name. As an international reader, he adds a request for a report on the next 'Roses' cricket match.

Ref. GDN 223/38/29

## **The Story of the Guardian**

The Guardian, 1965

This promotional brochure from the 1960s demonstrates the Guardian's global network of reporters.

Correspondents were posted to cities ranging from Paris, Bonn, Geneva and New York.

Ref. Ayerst Papers Box 30

## **Scott's Legacy**

In 1872, when appointed editor of the Manchester Guardian, CP Scott was 25 years old. He remained in post for 57 years. Under his stewardship, the Guardian transformed from a provincial newspaper to one with a global reputation.

Scott's political views aligned with Manchester's progressive elite. On election to parliament, as a Liberal MP, his influence extended to the national stage. He built an extensive personal and political network: from prime ministers and political leaders to humanitarians and authors.

Scott's editorship at the Manchester Guardian reflected his values and opinions. His principles are still relevant to those who work at the newspaper today.

## **CP Scott's Freedom of Manchester casket**

Maker and place of production unknown, presented in 1930

By accepting this honour, CP Scott cemented his long-standing connection with his adopted city. This silver casket, decorated with scenes of Manchester, once held a ceremonial scroll.

Ref. GUA/12/4/4

## **‘Scott & the Ship Canal’, election handbill**

Manchester, c.1886

Daniel Adamson, the visionary behind the Manchester Ship Canal, supported CP Scott’s political ambitions. Scott was unsuccessful in 1886 but would eventually serve as the Liberal MP for Leigh (1895–1906).

Ref. GDN /Add Box/319

## **Telegram from Winston Churchill**

London, 1916

Churchill congratulated Scott on his 70th birthday. The two men were political associates from at least 1904 when Churchill was the Liberal MP for Manchester North West.

Ref. GDN/334/130

## **Letter from Jan Smuts to CP Scott**

Cape Town, South Africa, 20 Jan 1923

During 57 years as editor of an influential newspaper and a political career as a Liberal MP, Scott built an extensive national and global network. His connection with Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, stretched back to the Boer War.

Ref. GDN /A/S71/2

## **'A Hundred Years'**

Manchester, 5 May 1921

Scott wrote his famous essay on journalism for the centenary edition of the Manchester Guardian. He outlines the importance of 'honesty, cleanness, courage, fairness' to the purpose of a newspaper. A quote from the essay appears on the 'Opinion' page of the Guardian today.

Ref. GDN/252

## **Photograph of a meeting of Directors and Trustees**

Manchester, 9 Jul 1943

In 1936, the ownership of the Manchester Guardian passed from the Scott Family to a Trust. This guaranteed editorial independence while avoiding the risk of crippling death duties.

The editor, William Crozier is pictured sitting to the left.

Ref. GDN/317/24

## **Menu for centenary dinner at the Midland Hotel**

Manchester, 3 May 1921

The Manchester Guardian held a lavish dinner for 500 people to mark its centenary. Guests included the suffragist Millicent Fawcett, the poet John Masefield, and Conservative politician, the Earl of Derby.

Ref. GDN/150/24

## **Acknowledgments**

Exhibition curators

Dr Janette Martin, Modern History Archivist

Karen Jacques, Collections Assistant

John McCrory, Reader Services Assistant

With thanks to

The estate of Nancy Cunard

Dr Rebecca Gill, University of Huddersfield

The Guardian Foundation

Philippa Mole, Guardian News & Media

Professor Robert Poole, University of Central

Lancashire

The Scott Trust

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