

Le Petit Journal: supplement illustré

In 1976, Prof. J.G. Boyazoglu, then Counselor (Agricultural Technical) at the South African Embassy in Paris, donated on permanent loan to the University of Johannesburg a unique collection of French Africana, perhaps the most comprehensive on the subject in South Africa. He acquired the items, while studying in Paris in the nineteen-sixties.

The collection comprises material illustrating French involvement in South African history, including the following:

- material relating to the early French journeys to the Cape and South African interior;
- descriptions of the role played by French missionaries in Southern Africa in the early nineteenth century;
- documents regarding the French attitude to and observations during the Boer War;
- documents on French involvement in the development of the mining industry in South Africa;
- a collection of Boer-War memorabilia, e.g. porcelain, toys, etc.

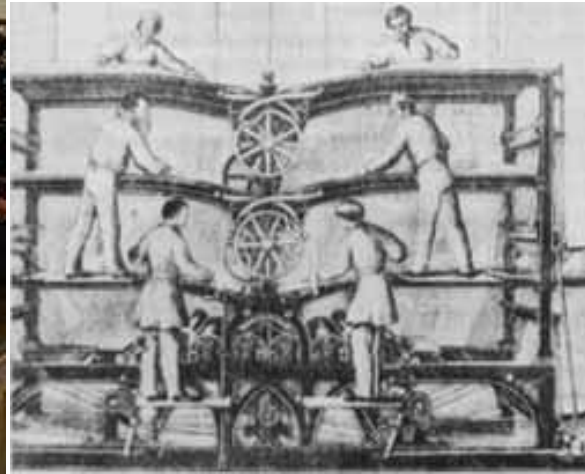
Le Petit Journal: supplement illustre (1899-1902) forms part of this collection and portrays many exciting war scenes, dramatic social happenings, gun battles, and human drama.

Le Petit Journal was a daily Parisian newspaper in existence from 1863 to 1944. From 1884 it included a weekly illustrated supplement of which UJLIC has copies dated between 1899 and 1902. These years cover the reports on the Anglo Boer War and include many illustrations depicting scenes from the War.

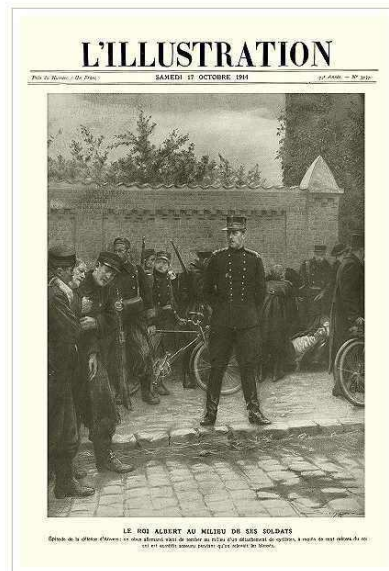


As the circulation figures of newspapers grew, production costs started to fall because of the growth of advertising and technological improvements. Le Petit Journal was the first to aim for a mass audience, cramming their pages with crime stories, serialized novels, and human interest stories. The newspaper was extremely popular and at the height of its popularity the newspaper had a circulation of a million copies. The back and front covers were printed in bold and eye-catching color, usually with prints or etchings of news-worthy events. The price was very cheap and the print-run ran into more than a million copies for every issue. The inside pages consisted of text and at times pages of photographs or large-sized war maps. Throughout the war years many covers were dedicated to matters pertaining to the Anglo Boer War. Some cover pages were devoted to depicting various well-known and lesser-known commanding officers and heroes of the war. The emphasis was on sensation. Fortune Louis Meulle (1844-1901) and Tofani Oswaldo (1849-1915) were two of the illustrators. Copies of these illustrations are still for sale.

In 1889 Hippolyte Marinoni (1823-1904) demonstrated at the Paris Exposition a rotary press which turned a roll of paper back on its path, enabling successive sheets of large and small size to be printed on both sides and then cut and folded into piles of multicoloured completed newspapers. The machine had an automatic feeder and could produce at the time up to 20 000 copies per hour.



Marinoni increased the cylinders and in 1899 the machine was able to draw up and print a 12 page color newspaper folded and put into packets.



A newspaper that was in competition with *Le Petit journal* at the time, was *L'illustration : universel hebdomaire*. The latter was a weekly French newspaper

published in Paris from 1843 onwards. *L'illustration* became the first French newspaper to publish a photograph in 1891 and was famed for its lavish use of illustrative material – hence the name. UJLIC also have holdings for the years 1899 – 1902.

The Boyazoglu collection also includes the newspaper *Le monde illustré* for the period 1899 – 1902.

Issues of *Le Petit Journal: supplément illustré* can also be viewed in Gallica, the digital library of the French National Library which digitized items dating from 1884 to 1920. <http://gallica.bnf.fr/?lang=EN>

Read more: [Linotype History | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/about_6638188_linotype-history.html#ixzz0vRvRTxC7)
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http://www.mercurynie.com.au/print_museum/print_history.htm
<http://lepetitjournal.fr/>
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linotype_machine

Le Petit Journal

Le Petit Journal
CHACUN JOUR 5 CENTIMES
Le Supplément illustré
CHACUN SEMAINE 5 CENTIMES

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Le Petit Journal

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Le Petit Journal
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