

# EARLY PICTORIAL NEWS COVERAGE

by Trevor W. Hearl & Tony Cross

Apart from Napoleon's exile and exhumation, St Helena rarely made headline news in 19th century media. Even rarer was pictorial news coverage, particularly before the days of photo-printing. Yet artists' sketches and, later, photographs, featuring events and visitors' social comment did occasionally remind British readers of their South Atlantic outpost, especially through the pioneering pictorial news magazines, *The Illustrated London News* and *The Graphic*.

Postal historians and other researchers may therefore welcome an attempt to identify these sources, providing the only easily available pictorial evidence of at least a few events and personalities in Island history. They are no less appealing for being the least expensive of historical views to buy, sometimes at under £5, rarely over £15. But when purchasing, care must be taken to get the facts with the pictures; some dealers think text and date irrelevant, and trim them off not to spoil the view! This trial compilation will inevitably suffer gaps which I hope others will fill, and perhaps prompt Ascension and Tristan-watchers to seek material about their Islands.

## ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

1848 Dec 30 p429

PRESENT STATE OF NAPOLEON'S GRAVE (51/2 x 6")

Text (27 lines) by John Moore West

1858 Sep 18 9262 NAPOLEON'S FUNERAL CAR; Longwood; Napoleon's Tomb

Whole page of text + 3 illustrations

1866 Apr 14 p ST HELENA WITH TROOP SHIPS AT ANCHOR (61/2" x 9W)

Text on p366

1874 JAN 24 p81 LANDING GUNS AT MUNDEN'S COVE; Munden's Fort  
(each 3" x 4W)

Text p79: New Guns at St Helena (23 lines)

1874 Feb 28 p208 ASCENSION ISLAND HOSPITAL; Mountain Hospital (each 3" x 4W)

Text ?

1878 Jan 5 p20 SKETCHES AT ST HELENA (Capt. S.P. Oliver RA). Jamestown and the Ladder from Munden's Battery; Lot and Lot's Wife (each 6" x 8W)

Text p19: St Helena (half column)

1880 Aug 7 p128 THE EMPRESS EUGENIE at St Helena (whole page). Em-press Eugenie at the Tomb of Napoleon; Landing of Empress at St Helena. Text p130. (see also The Graphic below)

1888 Sept 8 p292 ASCENSION ISLAND, British Naval Base in the South Atlan-tic Ocean, 8 small illustrations (each 3" x 4W):  
General View from Green Mountain; Mountain Peak and Elliot's Pass; Bung-Hole Sq., Factory and Stables; Turtle Ponds; End of Road Up Hill; RN Hospital, Green Mountain; Back Gate of Mountain Hospital; Green Mountain Cemetery.

1888 Nov 24 p626 JAMESTOWN, ST HELENA. Jamestown; Government House,  
St Helena (from photo by Benj. Grant) (each 4" x 4'h")  
Text (39 lines)

1890 Apr 26 p517 LANDING OF DINIZULU, the exiled Zulu prince, at St Hel-ena.  
(6" x 9") Text ?

1900 Mar 17 p374 ST HELENA, THE PROBABLE PRISON FOR THE BOER LEADERS (a 7" x 9" reproduction of Read's map of 18151)

1900 Mar 24 p.iv CRONJE'S CAPTIVITY: SCENES IN ST HELENA (full page).  
Supplement Longwood Old House; Napoleon's Tomb; St Paul's Cath; Jamestown from Side Path.

1900 June 2 p742 CRONJE IN RETIREMENT: ARRIVAL OF BOER PRISONERS (full page). Cronje and his wife en route to Longwood; Boer prison-ers  
passing through Jamestown (from photographs by E.A. Thorpe, St Helena)

1903 Dec 5 p859 'THE LAST PHASE': THE VANQUISHED VICTOR AT ST HELENA. (2 large sketches by R. Caton Woodville reflecting Lord Rosebery's book)

1929 Apr 27 p714-5 NAPOLEON IN HIS ISLAND PRISON: "ST HELENA"  
(12 pictures from "a new German film version of 'The Last Phase'" (Rosebery 1900)

1934 Sep 8 p354 NAPOLEON - EVER A DRAMATIC FIGURE: Longwood the second exile restored and now providing the setting of a new play. (St Helena by R.C. Sherriff and Jeanne de Casalis) (Full page; text + 4 photos). Longwood

gardens awaiting the restorers; metal frames of new buildings; a general view; a distant view “bleak, windswept”.

1938 Jun 25 p1154 THE EARTHLY PARADISE OF THE S. ATLANTIC: St Helena 1502-1938 by Philip Gosse (full page review by Sir John Squire + 3 illustrations)

1955 Sept 24 p526-7 LONGWOOD HOUSE: Newly repaired and reopened as a Museum. Text (42 lines) and 10 photos by Violet Gilmour. Plantation House; Briars; Jonathan; Longwood House (2); Bertrand's Cottage; Sandy Bay; Tomb.

1956 Aug14 p199 THE ST HELENA WEREBIRD: Never before photographed. (Habitat + 5 close-ups) and text (36 lines) by Dr. E.J. Rombejko (Island MO)

1975 Jan 19 p103 TO BE VISITED BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH: Pleasant but Remote St Helena. (Text 14 lines); 6 photos: Mount Pleasant; Longwood House; Castle Entrance, Ladder; Plantation House + Jonathan; Main Street.

1984 Apr p40-42 ST HELENA, THE FORGOTTEN COLONY. 8 colour photos + captions by Rory Coonan (Flax workers; fishermen; Ascension ‘boy’ (showing US influence); police group; Jamestown from Ladder Hill).

### **THE GRAPHIC**

1877 Apr 14 p348 NOTES AT ST HELENA (5 views; full page) Island from the sea; Ladder Hill from the Anchorage; Landing during Rollers; Donkeys carrying hay; Four types to be met in Jamestown.

1877 Apr 28 p397 SKETCHES AT ST HELENA by Lt. Geo. C. Giles (half-page) Detached squadron at anchor; Claret Jug presented to Capt. Gifford; Young Phoenix; Crows Nest from which castaways were seen; Presentation in the Castle. Text (p?) explains presentation to US whaler skipper Gifford for rescuing 44 survivors from the Strathmore in 1875.

1880 Feb 28 p220 HALLEY'S MOUNT AND HUTTS GATE. Site of Proposed Monument to Halley; the spot where his Observatory formerly stood (6" x 4½")

1880 Aug 14 p173 VISIT OF EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE TO ST HELENA. Briars and Pavilion; Longwood; Landing of ex-Empress; Island from NNE; Tomb. (8" x 9").

1881 Sep 10 p280 ASCENSION ISLAND (silhouette with ships; 2" x 9")

1883 Feb 24 p? TURTLE CATCHING AT ASCENSION ISLAND (4 small illustrations)

1886 Feb 20 p220/1 A RUN ASHORE AT ST HELENA (double-page spread) “We go ashore; we mount; up the hill we go; at the Tomb; race to Longwood; the bust of Napoleon; we play cricket; Jack’s gone over the cliff! festivity at an end. (Searches have failed to confirm this story)

1890 Nov 15 p550 A VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF ST HELENA (full page of illustrations) Longwood; Rosemary Hall, residence of Zulu chiefs; Plantation House; Jamestown from Side Path; Napoleon’s Tomb; Ladder Hill.

1911 Sept 9  
p365 AN INTERESTING SOUVENIR OF NAPOLEON (2 sketches of Napoleon after death by Lt. Geo. Welsh RN, HMS Vigo)

### **OTHER PERIODICALS**

*Mechanics’ Magazine*

1832 Feb .11 p337-9 ST HELENA’S INCLINED PLANE - text + detailed sketch of machinery.

*Mechanics’ Magazine*

1834 Mar 11 p417-9 LADDER HILL RAILWAY, ST HELENA Text by J.W. Hoar with detailed sketch of waggons.

*Harper’s Weekly*

1878 Feb 2 p103 A DAY’S FISHING AT ST HELENA (6” x 9” + text) Supplement That awful Ladder; the fishing ground; Caught! (conger); Text: ST HELENA p102-103

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1937 14 p440 SHADES OF BONAPARTE: ST HELENA, THE FORGOTTEN ISLE (full page) Text with 3 photos (incl. Black Rock) by Philip Gosse (“one of the loveliest and happiest spots in the world at which to spend a peaceful holiday”)

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