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Drafts of history: the world in newspapers on a single day

...

ONLINE EXHIBIT & PUBLICLY
SOURCED ARCHIVE

Exhibition curated by Vaibhav Singh



10 March 2020 marked what may retrospectively be called the end of an era: it was the last day before the World Health Organisation officially declared the global pandemic that continues to reshape our world in critical ways. As the restrictions and lockdowns came into effect worldwide, the ‘Drafts of History’ project has created a publicly sourced archive of that particular moment, articulated and comprehended through newspapers of a single day. The project collected physical/paper copies of 10th March papers from around the world to create a snapshot of the world in newspapers, and at the same time a record of newspapers as printed artefacts in our tumultuous world.

Newspapers – in words made famous by *The Washington Post* in the 1940s – form the ‘first rough draft of history’. Newspapers are also a bundle of contradictions, mayflies of the print world – short-

from drafts, advertisements, stories, and news to rags, *raddi*, wrappers, and pulp, in a matter of days, the printed newspaper has a particularly complex existence as a temporal, political, informational, and physical artefact. Thousands of newspapers around the world have ceased to operate over the last decade, and thousands more are on the brink of closure as ways of reporting and transmitting information change. Moreover, it is evident that we are at a juncture where not only the viability of the newspaper as a tangible document is under question, but when the free press as an institution is itself under sustained attack. As a myriad small and local newspapers across the world continue to teeter on the edge, we initiated the **Drafts of history** project to explore the complex, contradictory, deeply contested, and truly multifarious global history of the printed newspaper.

Over a year of uncertainties and disruptions, we have received more than a thousand newspapers from over ninety countries so far (with newspapers still on the way from several more) – thanks to our intrepid contributors who have persevered through postal purgatories, lost packages, and multiple return-to-sender situations due to the

ESSAYS

[illegible]

to-Z of ‘dispatches’ will be accompanied by additions to the online exhibit below, so please watch this space.

ROBIN JEFFREY (National University of Singapore)

News of the world, in three acts: a dispatch from Australia

I have three newspapers in front of me – fittingly for the ‘Drafts of History’ project, from 10 March 1888. The three newspapers come from Victoria, British Columbia, in Canada; Melbourne in Australia; and Mumbai in India (Bombay, as it was known in 1888). For me, part of the fascination with these three dailies lies in my having had my first real job on one of them, written occasionally for another, and having used the third for research for over fifty years. [\[Read more ...\]](#)

ARCHIVE

every few weeks along with the publication of a dispatch (see above). Stay tuned to see the full collection of newspapers.

ALBANIA



Dita



Fjala



Gazeta Librale



Gazeta Shqiptare



Koha Jonë



Mapo



Panorama



Panorama Sport



Sot News



Standard



Telegraf



Tema

ALGERIA



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L'Echo d'Oran



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Le Quotidien d'Oran



Le Régional



Le Soir d'Algérie



Liberte



Manbar El Koraa



Ouest Info



Ouest Tribune

ANDORRA



Bondia



Diari d'Andorra

AUSTRALIA



The Kalgoorlie Miner



The Australian



The Daily Telegraph



The Sydney Morning Herald



The West Australian

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Der Standard
Kompakt



Die Presse



Kleine Zeitung



Kronen Zeitung



Kurier



Öö Nachrichten



Österreich



Salzburger
Nachrichten



Salzburger
Nachrichten



Tiroler
Tageszeitung



Wiener Zeitung

AZERBAIJAN



525-ci Qezet



Baki Xeber



Bukmeker



Cumhuriyet
Qezeti



Ezhednevnye
Novosti



Futbol+



Kaspi



Kaspiy



Movqe



Nedelya
Zhivaya Gazeta

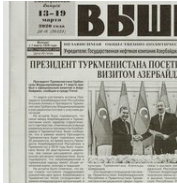


Novoye Vremya



Novoye Vremya





Vyshka



Xalq Cebhesi

Next week: Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all our contributors! The next iteration of the project is scheduled for 2038 when we hope to document 10th March once again, through what remains of newspapers around the world.

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