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Title
The Whale Cure for Rheumatism in Australia

Date
31 May 1902

Primary Maker
William Ralston (1848 - 1911)

Medium
Ink on paper

Dimensions
Sheet: 397 x 295 mm Sight: 375 x 257 mm

Name
Engraving

History

Illustrated weekly magazines became increasingly popular in Europe and America during the mid 19th century. They used large eye catching illustrations to accompany articles on politics, war, travel, exploration, fine arts, science and literature. The Graphic was a British weekly magazine first published in 1869 it ceased production 1m 1932. During the 1800s and early 1900s whaling was a large scale commercial enterprise conducted across the globe. Whales were a valuable source of oil, baleen and ambergris, and used in the production of lamp fuels, lubricants, candles, corsets, buggy whips, medicines, perfumes and soaps. The main industry centered on the American north-east coastal town of New Bedford which saw hundreds of ships heading out to the Pacific Ocean on a weekly basis. The warm waters of the Pacific were a rich breeding ground and migration route for whales. Australia's close proximity to these areas allowed the development of a number of whaling stations.