

THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Editorial – May 2011. In Focus - 'Travelling Through History'. In Brief – New Content for The European Library



EDITORIAL – May - 2011

This month, we're celebrating the spirit of travel and exploration with the launch of our new *Travelling Through History* exhibition. Journey to the North Pole, book your ticket on a 1930s car trip through Eastern Europe or flip through hundreds of historic postcards, maps and guidebooks.

There are over 500 items to explore. India, Japan, Central Africa and the South Pacific are some of the destinations represented, with objects dating from the 1400s to modern times. Many objects are being displayed online for the first time. They were collected from 13 of Europe's most prestigious libraries and digitised for the [EuropeanaTravel](#) project.

IN FOCUS – Travelling Through History

Travelling Through History has hundreds of maps, images, books and sounds to explore. Expert curators have provided information about each object's history, so you can learn even more about the fascinating items on display. Here are just a few of the gems to discover:



Bohemia, Rose of all Centuries, Covered with Blood - This rose-shaped map is a beautiful depiction of 17th century Bohemia. It shows the rose growing from Vienna (the centre of the Habsburg Empire at that time) and spreading its petals to encompass much of the modern-day Czech Republic. The map is topped with a crown and the motto of Austrian emperor Leopold I: *Iustitia et pietate* (justice and piety).

A poetic text is also written on the map, which was initially designed by Kristian Vetter for Bohuslav Balbin's book of national history and geography, *Epitome historica rerum Bohemicarum*. Wolfgang Kilian engraved the map in 1668.

POPULAR SEARCHES ON THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY WEBSITE:

1. Tornike Estavi – A book from our [Reading Europe](#) exhibition about this famous Georgian general and monk has recently been a popular search on The European Library website.

2. Urbino Bible – This magnificent manuscript is held in the Vatican Library. You can read more about it on the [Treasures page](#) for the papal library.

3. Codex Gigas – One of the treasures of the Swedish National Library is the [Codex Gigas](#) or Devil's Bible; so named because it contains a large, full-page portrait of the devil.

[Launch your own query!](#)

VIDEO CORNER

This [video](#) features "Travelling Through History". View the exhibition highlights in two minutes.



OUR TIPS

Install The European Library [Google Gadget](#) on your iGoogle page, to easily explore the *Reading Europe* exhibition.



Theuerdank - This elaborate book gives an allegorical description of an adventurous trip made by the German emperor, Maximilian I. It is the story of his journey, written in verse, and a romantic tale because Maximilian I was travelling to woo his future wife, Mary of Burgundy. The resulting book is considered to be one of the most beautiful illuminated manuscripts of the 16th century. It was supposed to be the second of a three-volume series but the trilogy was never finished.



Car Tour by Sir Arthur Evans - Archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans (1851-1941) travelled extensively, starting in the 1870s when he explored Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Evans later became famous for his archaeological excavations of Knossos Palace in Crete in 1899-1907. The photos in this leather-bound photo album record a tour by car of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina taken by Evans in 1932. There are 21 black and white photos in total, and this particular picture shows the departure from Zagreb on June 9th. The album was bequeathed to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies when Evans died in 1941.



Semang Kensiu - The Semang are an ethnic group of the Malay Peninsula in Southeast Asia. They traditionally lived mainly in the tropical rain forests of the mountains as hunter-gatherers. This impressive photograph of a group of Semang Kensiu men and boys was taken by Paul Schebesta in 1924. At this time, the Semang lived a nomadic life, attached great importance to their freedom of movement and disapproved of being settled. They felt strongly connected with nature and were able to gather their food through hunting and from the woods. The photographer, Paul Jochamin Schebesta (1887-1968), was a German theologian, missionary and ethnologist.

JAPANESE LIBRARIES

Libraries in Japan have been struggling to recover from the damage caused by March's devastating earthquake.

Buildings and books were damaged, and libraries have suffered electricity cuts. Many libraries, including the National Diet Library in Tokyo, have been forced to cut back their services or close altogether.

*The full scope of the damage is not yet clear, but recent articles in the **American Libraries Magazine** and **Library Journal** describe some of the many problems that Japanese libraries are facing. **IFLA** is also maintaining a list of resources that show how libraries are coping.*

CREDITS

This newsletter was put together by **Friedel Grant** and **Aubéry Escande** of the European Library Office. It includes images and curatorial information from the **Moravian Library in Brno** (Bohemian Rose), **National Library of Poland** (Theuerdank), **University College London** (Car Tour by Sir Arthur Evans), **Austrian National Library** (Semang Kensiu), **Koninklijke Bibliotheek** (Albuminscriptie van Renius a Deipholt), **Wellcome Library** (Birth of Iskandar), **University of Vienna** (Plan of San Marco in Venice) and **Romanian Academy Library** (Queen Marie of Romania).



Albuminscriptie van Renius a Deipholt uit Oost-Friesland -

This is an image from the album of the physician Bernardus Paludanus (1550-1633). It was created by Remus von Diepholt, a member of the East Frisian nobility, and shows a Paduan noblewoman alongside von Diepholt's coat of arms.

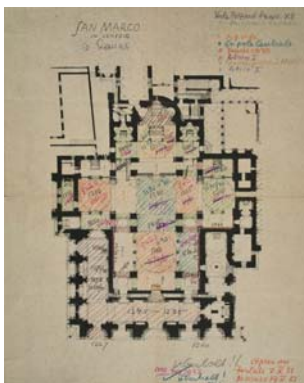
On 10 August 1576 he pointed out to Paludanus the relativity of life: "Ludit in humanis divina potentia rebus / Et certam praesens vix habet hora fidem." In other words, "Heaven makes sport of human affairs, and the present hour gives no sure promise of the next." The entry from von Diepholt is just one of 1,900 contributions in the album; both from visitors to Paludanus' collection of travel curiosities in Enkhuizen and entries Paludanus gathered on his own travels.

IN BRIEF – New Content For The European Library

The European Library already gives you access to the resources of Europe's 48 national libraries, and soon our collection will expand to include 5 million objects from prestigious European research libraries. The new resources include Ottoman manuscripts, Spanish civil war photographs and thousands of theses, journals and academic articles. Here's a sneak preview of some of the treasures that will be added to our database.



The Birth of Iskandar - This ornate horoscope shows the position of the heavens at the moment Prince Iskandar, grandson of the Turkman Mongol conqueror Tamerlane, was born on April 25, 1384. It is part of the [Wellcome Library](#) collection.



Plan of San Marco in Venice - This is a plan of Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice, with sketches concerning the dating of the mosaics. It was created by **Otto Demus**, an Austrian art historian who helped to restore and document the mosaics of Saint Mark's Basilica. He was also an expert on Byzantine mosaics. The original of this plan is held at the [University of Vienna](#).



Queen Marie of Romania - Queen Marie of Romania was born in England in 1875 and married the heir to the Romanian throne, Prince Ferdinand, in 1893. This image was taken in 1907, seven years before she and her husband became King and Queen of Romania. This photograph comes from the [Romanian Academy Library](#).