

# THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

[Editorial - March April 2010](#). [In Focus - 'A Roma Journey' - Uncovering the Romani's rich heritage](#). [In Brief - Exhibitions across Europe](#)



## EDITORIAL – March – April 2010

Welcome to this month's **Roma Special Newsletter**. In this issue we're celebrating the launch of The European Library's riveting new web exhibition 'A Roma Journey'. This excellent online experience is all the more exciting because it's a truly pan European endeavour. Thanks to The European Library's collaboration with the National Library of Serbia and valuable contributions from the national libraries of Denmark, Moldova and Georgia, the curator and romologist Mr. Dragoljub Acković and the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, we all get the opportunity to revel in the world of the roaming Roma.

## TOP 3 SEARCH ENTRIES ON THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY - MARCH 2010:

- 1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** - Austrian composer, 1756 - 1791,
- 2. Emmanuel Mounier** - French philosopher - 1905 - 1950,
- 3. Freedom**, "*is the human value, or situation, to act according to one's will without being held up by the power of others*" according to Wikipedia.

[Launch your own query!](#)



## IN FOCUS – 'A Roma Journey' – Uncovering the Romani's rich heritage

### A Hidden History-The National Library of Serbia

'A Roma Journey' takes you on a tour through a fascinating collection of books, rare manuscripts, photographs, paintings and videos from the world of the Roma in the Balkans and across Europe. The Romani's rich oral heritage is unravelled for all thanks to the collaboration of the Department for Digitisation of the National Library of Serbia and The European Library.

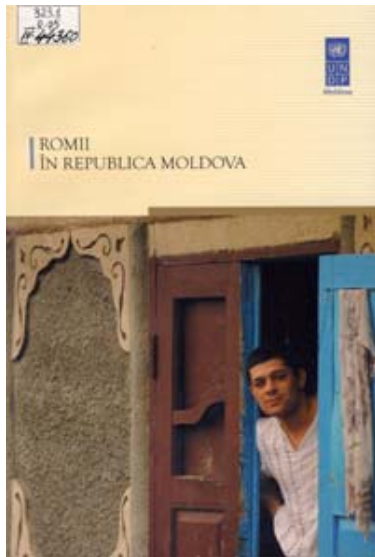
Visitors can gain unique insights in to life for the Roma from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. Digital delights on offer include the first ever dictionary in Roma-Serbian-German, written in a WWII concentration camp, as well as 19<sup>th</sup> century postcards highlighting these hidden faces of history.

## OUR TIPS

Discover the **treasures held in the great national libraries of Europe** through a [single access point](#)



Send an **e-postcard** from the national libraries of Europe. Celebrate reading and deliver your own literary note!



There's also a chance to feast your eyes on the first book on the Romani people published in Serbia in 1803 (one of only 9 books published in the whole country that year) along with more contemporary collections.

Ms. Vesna Injac, the Deputy Director of the National Library of Serbia, is keen to point out this isn't the first time the NLS has had a Romani focus. "The content is just one part of the Digital Romani Collection, which we started coordinating in 2006. The collection," states Injac, "was created, in cooperation with The European Library, with the aim of providing free access to Romani cultural gems." [More info...](#)

### **Raising Awareness of the Roma - The National Library of Moldova**

As one of the exhibition's contributing national libraries, Moldova has a rich Roma heritage. The Roma have made their home in Moldova from as early as 1385 and when Moldova was part of the former USSR there were also nomadic Roma populations.



With the exhibition highlighting the Roma heritage, Raisa Melnic, from the NLM, is keen to point out how they have also influenced others. "Romani life and traditions inspired a lot of artists. Alexander Pushkin was exiled in Moldova where he fell in love with a beautiful Romani girl called Zamfira. He used his story to write the poem "Romani". [More info...](#)

### **Danish Alliances with the Roma**

The National Library of Denmark's contribution to the exhibition provides a very personal focus. The library has contributed knowledge about a Roma family from a Danish music teacher's correspondence with the family, who were expelled from Denmark in the beginning of the 1900s. [More info...](#)



### **Austrian Audio Input**

Another fascinating part of the exhibition is the audio content provided by the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. "Our Romani holdings are one of the largest collections of their kind," reveals curator Christiane Fennesz-Juhasz. [More info...](#)

### **YOUR SAY**

*"I LOVE Europe, I love libraries, I love The European Libraries."*  
John – Australia –  
Subscriber since January 2010

*"I am thinking of highlighting your site at an upcoming seminar here in Dublin on Free Academic Resources. Your site is brilliant. I love the Exhibition Foyer and particularly the Treasures section. Being able to peruse digital copies of such as the Codex Gigas is of course invaluable to scholars. Well done." Tony –  
Teacher in Dublin*

### **CREDITS**

The editorial content of the Newsletter was gathered with the kind cooperation of **Vesna Injac** from the National Library of Serbia, **Agnete L. Rodskjer** from the National Library of Denmark, **Natalia Rotura** from the National Library of Moldova, **Christiane Fennesz-Juhasz** from the Phonogrammarchiv - Austrian Academy of Sciences & put together by **Tiziana Fazio**, **Justine Maybank** and **Aubéry Escande** from The European Library Office.

## IN BRIEF – Exhibitions across Europe



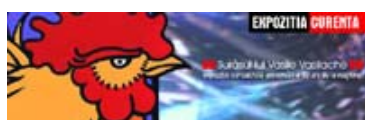
### Chopin: The Romantic Refugee – British Library

Satisfy your Chopin cravings with this exhibition dedicated to his time in Great Britain. View original manuscripts of some of his most famous compositions alongside portraits, letters and historic documents charting his passion for the Polish political cause. The great composer gave his last five concerts in Britain and the exhibition also provides access to rare historic recordings. 1 March-16<sup>th</sup> May 2010 [More info...](#)



### Grigore Vieru: "Taina, care mă apără" - The National Library of the Republic of Moldova

Take a tour of the life and works of Moldova's greatest contemporary poet with this virtual exhibition from their national library. [More info...](#)



### Vasile Vasilache: "Surâsul lui Vasile Vasilache" - The National Library of the Republic of Moldova

Another virtual voyage from the national library of Moldova covers the life and works of contemporary writer, Vasile Vasilache. [More info...](#)



### Swiss Appeal: Switzerland in Travel Guides – Swiss National Library

Want to know what makes Switzerland so special? This exhibition of travel guides and posters from the past and present will prove theirs more to the Swiss than cheese and chocolate.

12<sup>th</sup> March-27<sup>th</sup> June 2010. [More info...](#)



### More Swiss newspapers online! – Swiss National Library

The complete holdings of The Journal de Genève, Gazette de Lausanne and the Nouveau Quotidien, three daily newspapers that were the forerunners of Le Temps have been digitised and made available online. [More info...](#)



### A French Facelift – French National Library

Take a peak at the BnF's refreshed and revamped website and get to grips with Gallic goings on.

[More info...](#)