

THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY

Press Release

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A Roma Journey, an exciting new web exhibition from The European Library

Uncover the Roma's rich cultural heritage with this ground breaking multilingual [online exhibition](#). With just a couple of clicks, visitors can view a unique collection of books, rare manuscripts, photographs, paintings, sound recordings and videos from the world of the Roma. Rarities on offer include the first ever dictionary written in Romani-Serbian-German in a concentration camp, traditional songs and tales, the Zemfira postcards and letters exploring the experiences of one Roma family in Scandinavia. This excellent online experience allows users to flick through a fascinating collection of curiosities from the beginning of the 20th Century, along with more contemporary content. Thanks to the collaboration of national libraries across the continent, the oral and written traditions of the Roma are now accessible to all.

Exhibition curator and Roma expert Mr. Dragoljub Acković hopes the exhibits will increase awareness of this pan-European culture. *"A Roma Journey will have an unprecedented impact across Europe. By featuring digital content related to the Roma citizens through the 19th and 20th century, this exhibition will uncover the traces of a long living culture of travellers."*

Vesna Injac, Deputy Director of the National Library of Serbia, is also keen to highlight the exhibitions modern gems. *"A Roma Journey provides a fascinating overview of the Roma culture but it also features prose and poetry by contemporary Roma authors,"* she says. *A Roma Journey complements the historical point of focus with the vivid input of younger artists."*

A Roma Journey exhibition was put together by the Department for Digitisation of the National Library of Serbia with help of The European Library. A large part of the current content was provided by our curator and expert in the field, Mr. Dragoljub Acković. *"Europe's Memorabilia"* collection was put together by the National Libraries of Denmark, Moldova and Georgia and the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Take a journey with [The European Library](#) and revel in the world of the roaming Roma. [A Roma Journey](#) wishes you "Bahtalo drom! – Bon voyage !".

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Notes for editors

- [The European Library](#) is a free service that offers access to the resources of the 48 national libraries of Europe. Resources can be both digital (books, posters, maps, sound recordings, videos, etc.) and bibliographical.

The amount of referenced digital collections is constantly increasing. Quality and reliability are guaranteed by the 48 collaborating national libraries of Europe. The partners in The European Library are all members of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), a foundation aiming at increasing and reinforcing the role of national libraries in Europe.

The European Library is also the organisational ground for the "European digital library: [Europeana](#)". This European Commission initiative encompasses not only libraries but also museums, archives and other holders of cultural heritage material.

[Europeana](#) will give access to over 10 million digital items by September 2010.

- The [National Library of Serbia](#) represents the primary informational and cultural wealth capital of the Republic of Serbia. Its funds and collections contain over 5 million publications of various types and origins. Its catalogues and bibliographies in printed and electronic formats provide an easy access for all users. Its Digital Library contains more than 1,5 of digital items in about 100 different collections.
- The [National Library of Denmark](#), the [National Library of Georgia](#), the [National Library of Moldova](#) and the [National Library of Serbia](#) are all active members of The European Library
- The [Phonogrammarchiv](#), an institute of the [Austrian Academy of Sciences](#), was established in 1899 as the world's first sound archive. Today it produces, collects and digitally preserves sound as well as videographic research documents.
- [Dragoljub Acković](#) (1952, Osipaonica near Smederevo). Education in the fields of ethnology and political science. PhD International Romology Studies at the University ECPD (European Center for Peace and Development). Author of numerous articles and books on difficulties facing the Roma. Editor of the Roma program on Radio Belgrade. Founder and director of the independent Radio Television Khrlo e Romengo and founder of numerous media in the Romany language. Member of the Roma and Yugoslav PEN and the Writers' Association since 1997. Active member of the Commission for the study of life and customs of the Roma in the Serbian Academy of Science and Art.

With thanks to Mr. Nikola Pavlovic for his technical solutions and support throughout *A Roma Journey* exhibition set-up.