

English Version Press Release Collection Days:

The Archives de France, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Mission du Centenaire and Europeana 1914 -1918 present

Family History Roadshows

From 9th to 16th November 2013

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, a Europe-wide call has been made to the public to digitise their documents from this period and save them for future generations.

In France, personal and family documents relating to the First World War can be shared and digitised between 9-16 November 2013 at Family History Roadshows or collection days organised by the Archives de France, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Mission du Centenaire and Europeana 1914 -1918.

The collection days will take place in almost 50 locations across France, two-thirds of which are linked to the Departmental Archives. The roadshows are part of the European project, Europeana 1914-1918 which aims to create a unique pan-European archive of personal stories from the First World War.

Everyone with documents from the First World War such as diaries, notebooks, letters, photographs, leaflets and posters is urged to come to a roadshow to share their story and have their documents digitised.

Visitors will be welcomed by experts who will identify and photograph the documents, and collect the individual family stories relating to them. The documents will then be returned to contributors, who can also choose to donate them to the institution if they wish.

Some documents such as posters and postcards tell a collective story through their imagery, while others are more personal, but all provide direct testimony from the daily lives of soldiers and civilians.

These family documents and stories provide different perspectives of the First World War and each is essential to creating this unique pan-European archive. They will sit with stories from countries across Europe to be shared online, accessed by others worldwide and saved for future generations.

Nine countries across Europe have already held Europeana 1914-1918 Family History Roadshows, collecting thousands of family pictures, documents or objects and the personal stories and accounts that go with them. All these documents will be available via the Europeana 1914-1918 website.

The events allow people to meet experts and learn more about the historical context of their heritage while those not able to attend can still take part and share their documents by scanning them or photographing them using a digital camera and uploading them directly to the Europeana 1914-1918 website.

Europeana provides free access to more than 29 million digital items from 2,300 European cultural institutions (libraries, museums, audiovisual collections, archives).

In addition to the Archives de France, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Mission du Centenaire and Europeana 1914-1918, this operation is supported by CinéTévé, the National Film Center, the European Film Gateway, Le Parisien, France Télévisions and Radio France (France Bleu).

Family History Roadshows

Map, addresses and dates of the collection sites on the Mission du Centenaire website:

www.centenaire.org

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*The Departmental Archives depend on regional councils and are directed by French curators.

Present locations : (libraries and archives) : Amiens, Alençon, Angers, Arras/Dainville, Bar-le-Duc, Bordeaux, Bourges, Bussy-Saint-Georges, Chalon-sur-Saône, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Dammarie-les-Lys, Dijon, Draguignan, Epinal, Foix, La Rochelle, Lille, Limoges, Lyon, Mâcon, Marseille, Mende, Nanterre, Nevers, Nice, Paris, Péronne, Perpignan, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, Privas, Rouen, Sablé-sur-Sarthe, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Etienne, Saint-Lô, Strasbourg, Toulouse, Tours, Versailles.