



## World War One 1914-1918

Digitising pictures, letters, memories for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### Press Release

### European Project Launch [europeana1914-1918.eu](http://europeana1914-1918.eu)

Luxembourg, 27 February 2012: The project [europeana1914-1918.eu](http://europeana1914-1918.eu) is being launched today with a call to the European public. Everybody is invited to share their private memorabilia from the First World War on the web.

We are looking for photographs, letters, diaries, short films, audio recordings, objects and their stories. Following the launch of the project family history roadshows will be organised all across Europe.

The project is a partnership between Europeana, Oxford University and a large number of regional partners.

#### Call for participation

We ask everybody to bring World War One memorabilia to the roadshows. They will be digitised professionally and added to the online archive, along with corresponding descriptions. Independently of the roadshows, everyone can contribute their digitised images and information to the website - [www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu).

Until 2014, the year of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, we will collect memorabilia in digital form from many of the countries involved in the War. The project aims to save people's family memories of this tragedy that convulsed Europe and make them accessible to the world.

Jill Cousins, Europeana's executive director, said: *"Memorabilia and stories are kept by families for a while, but after a century their significance starts to fade.*

*"That's why our online archive, which is collecting material from across Europe in a series of roadshows, is so important.*

#### A new approach: crowdsourcing

One innovative aspect of the project is the application of crowdsourcing - collecting input from people at large and assembling a wide variety of family memorabilia which will be made accessible to the public and to researchers alike. In 2008, Oxford University produced a remarkable collection of 1914-18 papers, pictures, souvenirs and memorable stories, digitised by people across the UK and the Commonwealth in the Great War Archive - [www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/](http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/)

## Coming Roadshows across Europe

The European 1914-1918 family history project started in 2011 in Germany with overwhelming success. Nine family history roadshows were held in major cities across the country with over 700 participants. So far we've recorded 25,000 digital images, which can be researched at [www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu).

New family history roadshows will take place at the following venues. They will be followed by further local events and roadshows in other countries.

<b>Luxembourg</b>	6 March 2012
<b>UK, Preston</b>	10 March 2012
<b>Ireland, Dublin</b>	21 March 2012
<b>Slovenia, Nova Gorica</b>	28 March 2012
<b>Denmark, Sønderborg Castle</b>	24 April 2012

**Luxembourg**  
Tuesday, 6 March 0900 – 1930  
[Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg](#)  
37 Bvd F.D.Roosevelt  
L-2450 Luxembourg  
Tel: 00352 22 97 55 -1

**United Kingdom**  
Saturday, 10 March 1000 – 1730  
[Museum of Lancashire](#)  
Stanley Street  
Preston  
PR1 4YP  
Tel: 01772 534075

**Ireland**  
Wednesday, 21 March 1000 - 1900  
National Library of Ireland  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 603 02 00

**Slovenia**  
Wednesday, 28 March  
France Bevk Public Library  
Nova Goriza

**Denmark**  
Tuesday, 24 April 1000 - 1800  
[Sønderborg Castle](#)  
Sønderbro 1  
6400 Sønderborg



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### A typical roadshow

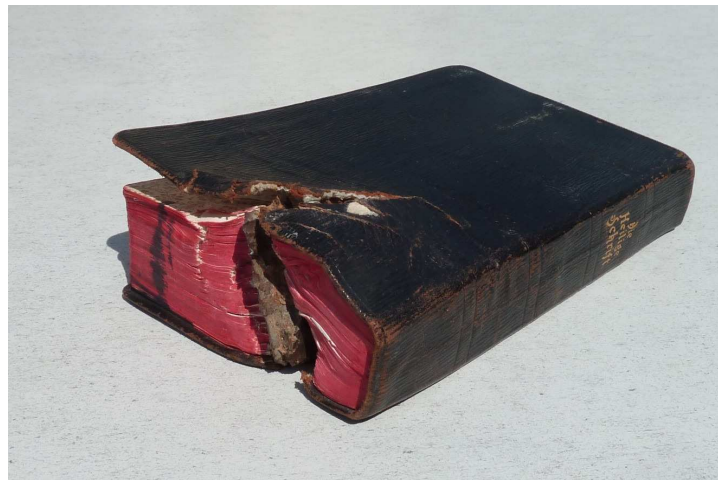
Roadshows are organised to help people to scan and upload their files. The public will be supported by experts of Europeana, from Oxford University and partner institutions. They explain what to do, and will record the testimonies will digitise documents and other items brought in.

## Roadshow 6<sup>th</sup> March in Luxembourg

In Luxembourg the project Europeana1914-1918 is coordinated by the National Library (BnL) in collaboration with the National Archives and plurio.net, the cultural portal of the Greater Region.

The public of Luxembourg and the surrounding regions across the border are invited to the Salle des arts at the National Library of Luxembourg (BnL). Participants will be welcomed by specialists from Oxford, Europeana, the BnL and the National Archives on 6<sup>th</sup> March from 9: 00 to 19: 30. Interested visitors can in addition use the facilities of the Media Centre of BnL. There they will find a selection of films and documentaries about World War One, which can be viewed on-site or taken home on loan. A comprehensive bibliography of books and documents on the Great War will also be available on [www.bnl.lu](http://www.bnl.lu) and at the library.

## Saved by his Bible - a family history



[www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/contributions/1817](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/contributions/1817)

An amazing family story has been contributed to the Europeana 1914-1918 website by Prof. Gottfried Geiler from Leipzig. In 1917 a bible saved the life of his father, Kurt Geiler, an infantryman.

In the never-ending trench warfare in the north-east of France Kurt Geiler was sleeping as usual with his Bible beneath his head. A direct hit destroyed his dug-out almost completely, dead and wounded were everywhere. Geiler was not injured and could get out of the rubble. Later he found his Bible again and to his astonishment there was a large piece of shell shrapnel wedged inside. Without the Bible, this would have smashed his head. Since that time, this Bible has been an important memento of the family.

The grandson of the soldier, Markus Geiler, will be present at the conference and present the story and the bible.

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**Europeana** ([www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu)) is Europe's digital library, archive and museum. It collects and provides access to digitised material from libraries, archives, audiovisual archives and museums. It has more than 1,500 collaborating institutions and the website is available in 27 European languages.

Europeana allows the public to discover and explore the cultural and intellectual heritage of Europe through a simple search engine and virtual exhibitions. Since its launch by the European Commission in November 2008, Europeana has grown to include more than 20 million documents and heritage works, available free on [europeana.eu](http://europeana.eu). The portal has over 3 million visitors a year.



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