

## STORIES FROM WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

### The Europeana 1914-1918 roadshow at the National & University Library of B&H

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#### Abstract

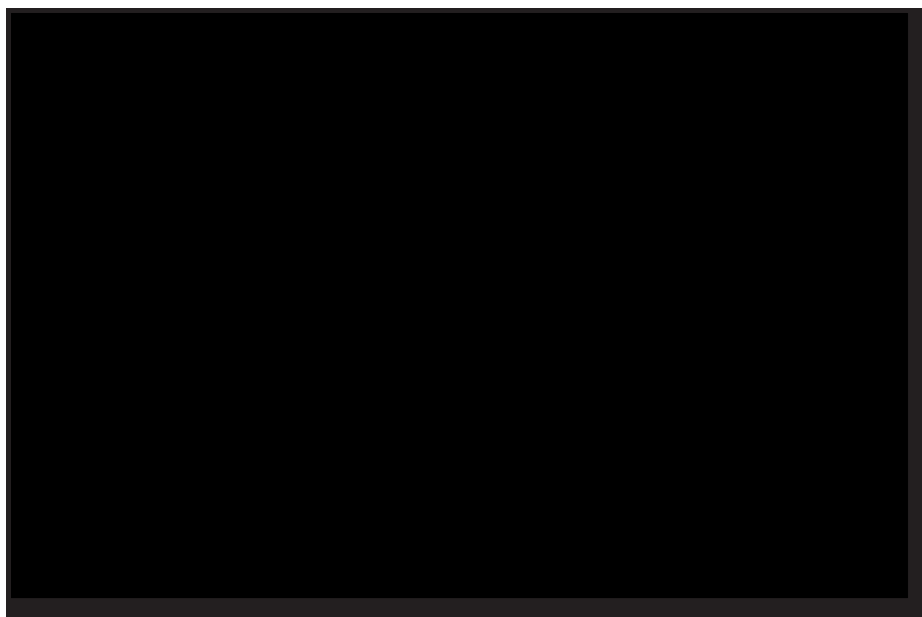
Project Europeana 1914-1918 was created in an effort to gather in one place untold and unpublished stories of individuals and their families. Items that are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina brought to the show have been digitized and published together with stories (with the permission from the owner) in the pan-European digital library "Europeana 1914-1918" with the location <http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/bs>.

This paper deals with the Days of collecting memories in Sarajevo in the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was the co-organizer of this event.

**Key words:** The project Europeana 1914-1918, Days of collecting memories in Sarajevo, 100 years after the First World War, National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Europeana 1914-1918 is a pan-European engagement project concerning the First World War. Unlike many other commemoration initiatives it focuses on the human aspects of the conflict rather than the military. The project website brings together resources from three major European projects each dealing with different types of First World War material. The result

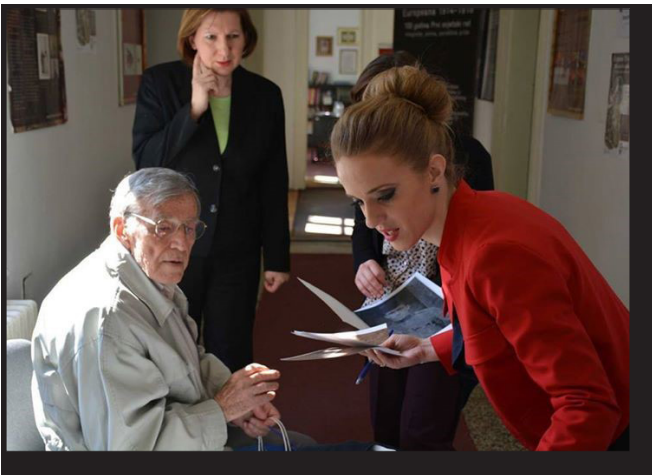
is an archive that allows the national collections of libraries to sit beside personal stories and treasures and important film archives. Together, this creates a unique perspective of the First World War, showing it from every side of the battle lines and with insights from every point of view. Over time, even more material will be added to this archive.



A postcard with a view over Sarajevo (CC-BY-SA Christian Beck-Mannagetta / Europeana 1914-1918)

One important aspect of the project is the application of crowdsourcing - collecting input from people at large – the general public – and assembling a wide variety of family memorabilia which is then made accessible to the public and to researchers. This can be done online from home or at so called community collection days or roadshows which are organised in cooperation with cultural heritage institutions all over Europe.

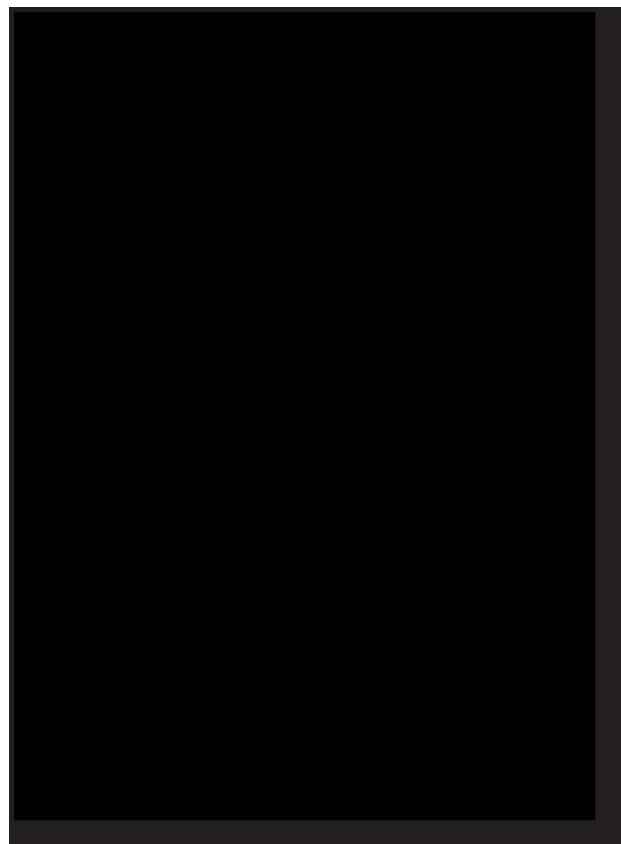
To come to Bosnia & Herzegovina has always been on the wish list of the Europeana 1914-1918 project team. On 18 and 19 March 2016 a roadshow was held in Bosnia, hosted by the National & University Library of Bosnia & Herzegovina in Sarajevo. In the past many historical images and documents concerning WW1 from Sarajevo or B&H were already contributed to Europeana 1914-1918, coming from various sources. Now, during the collection days new contributions of personal memorabilia directly from the people in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia & Herzegovina would be added to that.



Staff of the national & University Library attending a visitor (CC-BY-SA Europeana 1914-1918)

With the help of the skilled and dedicated of the Library, the whole campaign was very well prepared. Prior to the event all relevant B&H's cultural heritage institutions and professionals as well as prominent representatives of Sarajevo's various communities were given the opportunity to contribute. Among them Mr Dr. James Lyon, Founder of the Foundation for the Preservation of Historical Heritage, who provided technical and publicity support, as well as Mr Dr. Sc. Eli Tauber, renowned representative leader of the Jewish community of Sarajevo, who contributed a most interesting collection of postcards from the family. In addition students from the Faculty of History of the University of B&H were asked to help out during the roadshow. In fact many of them, without a doubt very much to their own benefit. Furthermore local as well as regional and national press and other media were invited to join a press conference, which helped to promote the event.

The National & University Library turned out to be the perfect location for the event. Easy to reach via public transport, the Library also possessed the required facilities and services to receive the audience with up to date equipment for digital reproduction. Even lunch was provided. Thanks to the enthusiastic and accurate work carried out by the whole team, the students as well as the professional staff of the Library the events was very successful. Although the numbers of visitors and contributions cannot be considered very high, the quality of the stories and object is truly satisfying. In total more than 20 stories were contributed with over 200 objects were added to the collection.



The portrait of Salih Brkic by Emil Ranzenhofer (CC-BY-SA Judith Kanner Gordy / Europeana 1914-1918)

One of the most interesting stories is that about the portrait of Salih Brkic by Emil Ranzenhofer. Ranzenhofer was an artist from Austria, who volunteered for KPQ (Kriegspressquartier - War newspaper office) during the First World War. Ranzenhofer was in Bosnia and Herzegovina where he drew many of his sketches of soldiers, war scenes and of the region. His granddaughter, Ms Judith Kanner Gordy, who lives and works in America, found one such sketch, with the name of a soldier on it: Salih Brkic, a soldier of Bosnian 10th Infantry Regiment. Ms Kanner Gordy uploaded her story and the sketch to the Europeana 1914 – 1918 website. As it happens, currently in Bosnia lives a well known journalist with the same name,

Salih Brkic. While preparing for the collection days in Sarajevo, Mr Ismet Ovcina, director of the National & University Library, managed to get in touch with him and was thus able to further verify the relation. It turns out that the journalist Salih Brkic, who lives

and works in Tuzla, is in fact a grandson of the soldier portrayed. This is just one example of how the Europeana 1914 - 1918 project can connect people who do not know each other and who live in different parts of the world.

### Suggested Information box

#### Some facts about the Europeana 1914-1918 project

One of the world's biggest resources of WW1-related material;

Access to 600,000+ objects from 24 countries in 22 languages;

Available through a multilingual and responsive thematic portal;

Featuring both pan-European user generated & institutional content;

Unique combination of personal stories, public documents and audio-visual material;

Most of the content can be made available for (commercial) re-use (CC-BY-SA) through the Europeana API or search widget;

Growing community with over 5,500 Twitter followers and 25,000 Facebook followers.

Dokumentarno naslijeđe

BOSNIACA 2016; 21: 47-49

UDC 930.25:004.9

UDC 027.54:004.6

### PRIČE IZ MJESTA GDJE JE SVE POČELO

#### Sažetak

Projekat Europeana 1914-1918 je nastao u želji da se neispričane i neobjavljene priče pojedinaca i njihovih porodica skupe na jednom mjestu. Predmeti koje su građani BiH donijeli da predstave su digitalizovani i objavljeni zajedno sa pričama, uz dozvolu vlasnika, u paneuropskoj digitalnoj biblioteci "Europeana 1914-1918" sa lokacijom <http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu/bs>.

U ovom radu se govori o Danima prikupljanja uspomena u Sarajevu u Nacionalnoj i univerzitetskoj biblioteci Bosne i Hercegovine, koja je bila i suorganizator ovog događaja.

**Key words:** Projekat Europeana 1914-1918, Dani prikupljanja uspomena u Sarajevu, 100 godina od Prvog svjetskog rata, Nacionalna i univerzitetska biblioteka Bosne i Hercegovine