

Europeana 1914-1918

Digitizes images, letters and memories for the Centenary of World War One

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Press Release

WW1 – dentro la Grande Guerra and pordenonelegge.it are organizing a new Europeana Collection Day to collect family stories and private memories from World War One

Save the Date: September 21, 2013, pordenonelegge.it – WW1 point, 9:00 – 20:00

Pordenone, September 21, 2013.
In preparation to the 100th anniversary of World War One in 2014, **WW1 - dentro la Grande Guerra Cultural Association**, responsible for the immersive platform of the same name, and **pordenonelegge.it** have set up a new Collection Day, whose scope includes both Italy and Europe, to be held in one of the "hottest" regions of the conflict, Friuli Venezia Giulia.

In recent years **Europeana** - the digital European archive-library-museum – has started a major task of digitizing, preserving and publishing records and documents on the Great War.

Europeana Collection 1914-1918: remembering World War One is a project financed by the European Union in which several libraries and public and private entities from eight European States (e.g. in Italy the Trentino Historical Museum Foundation and the Cultural Association WW1-dentro la Grande Guerra) are digitizing and making the materials from many World War One collections available on the Europeana portal and other platforms.
Within 2014, the centennial anniversary of war outbreak, the project will put 400,000 digital objects online. This will be a great momentum for information and historical research on the Great War: books, newspapers and magazines, maps, archive documents, films, propaganda materials, school books, posters, photographs, memorabilia like medals, coins, uniforms, flags, etc.
Students, researchers or ordinary citizens will be able to search any sources and work out new lines of historical reconstruction and interpretation of the Great War.

WW1 - dentro la Grande Guerra is an internationally recognized no-profit cultural project aiming to involve our contemporaries in observing the events of 100 years ago through the emotions and thoughts of the people who lived them, to feel those moments in their own skin, and learn that we must strive for a present of peace.

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WW1 is an editorial platform that offers the public a wide interactive map of the Front. Through it one can interact with so far unpublished contents, interactive 360° immersive panoramas, highly emotional videos, certified historical documents like the "Albo d'Oro", the Army's Reports on the Great War, reconstructions of forts, trenches, civil life, stories about work and the life of women and children.
The WW1 project connects the public contents coming from the archives of the Companies that made our Country's History with those from the Defense Ministry's Historical Archive as well as from the Popular Writing Archives **and Europeana's private memories collection**.
The new technologies provide a strategic language to reach a wide public because they create an easy and immediate access to issues often perceived as difficult or "bookish" and mostly uninteresting.

During World War One the Italian Army recruited over five million men, mostly "peasant-soldiers". The casualties amounted to nearly 600,000, a huge death toll. In our regions, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Trentino and Lombardy the whole population suffered the war directly, was evacuated, suspected to be pro-Italy or pro-Austria, imprisoned, and deeply scarred by this experience. Every Italian family of a hundred years ago lost some of its members in the war, whose memory every family today keeps and cherishes.

Now everybody **can contribute** to the preservation of his/her family narratives back in that critical time and share and disseminate them.
Whoever owns pictures, letters, postcards, memorabilia or any objects dating from 1914 to 1918 or knows a story to tell about relatives or acquaintances **can increase this precious online archive sharing his/her heritage** worldwide. Besides contents on military issues, the project welcomes also everyday life materials from the Great War period.

The contributors are invited to participate to the digitalization day, which will take place at the **WW1 Point on September 21, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.** on the occasion of pordenonelegge.it.

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Our professional staff will be present the whole day to digitize the materials and record the stories. Owners will be given back the items the same day.
Pre-registration on the WW1 web site is warmly recommended to minimize waiting and ensure the most effective management of the activities.

The Pordenone stage follows other Italian collection days at Forte di Cadine (Trento), Forte Monte Maso (Valli del Pasubio) and at the National Library in Rome and a series of successful international events in Germany, U.K., Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Denmark, Cyprus, Romania held from 2011 till now. Thousands of people have already responded to the initiative providing their valuable and original contribution to this unique source of Great War records.

On September 21, along with the Collection Day, WW1 - dentro la Grande Guerra will present two special sessions on the issues of **Memory** and **Great War Literary Paths.**
The first panel will involve Patrizia Marchesoni (Vice-Director of the Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino), Marco Mondini (researcher at the Italian German Historical Institute – FBK) and Emanuela Zilio (WW1 – dentro la Grande Guerra Project Manager).
The second panel will involve Sergio Frigo (Editor in chief of the Gazzettino), Giambattista Marchetto (partner of Charta Bureau, Studies Director of Praga), Michail Paschalidis (President of the WW1- dentro la Grande Guerra Association).

Those who cannot come to the Collection Day can instead take digital pictures of their items, scan letters or photographs, or digitize films and audios, then register on the www.europeana1914-1918.eu website and directly upload the material onto the archive. Europeana's experts will examine this information to make it available worldwide.

Reference websites

Europeana 1914-1918, www.europeana1914-1918.eu

WW1 – dentro la Grande Guerra, www.grandeguerra100.it
In Memoria, www.progettoinmemoria.net

pordenonelegge.it, www.pordenonelegge.it

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Further information

WW1 – dentro la Grande Guerra WW1 is a live tool growing in time to share knowledge and culture and make them available through the languages people use as their own.
WW1 is a national and international project that is bound to have an enormous visibility on interactive maxi-screens located throughout major Italian cities, airports and railway stations, post offices, anywhere people are waiting and looking for something to do. The contents will be first released in Italian and English and later also in German and French.
WW1 starts from the Italian territory and the people, but our user is virtually the whole world.
WW1 was officially presented to the Ministry of Defense, gaining its full approval and support. Its relationships with about twenty universities and research centers in Italy and ten others abroad, including the U.S. and Russia, are well under way.
Two neutral observers, the School of Business in Stockholm and the Screen City Lab in Turin, are already monitoring the project, which they are keen to analyze as a new bottom-up **business and communication** model focusing on Italy's huge, though incredibly overlooked, cultural heritage.

Europeana 1914-1918 sprang up from an idea of the University of Oxford to answer the demand from all over Britain for collecting and digitizing private letters, photos and memories of the Great War. Later, Europeana - the digital European archive-library-museum - was joined by other European National Institutions, thus linking all the actors from Britain, Germany, Slovenia, Ireland, Luxemburg etc. interested in gathering World War One materials.

pordenonelegge.it is a Book Festival with the Authors scheduled from September 18 to 22, 2013. Every year protagonists and professionals of national publishing companies as well as reading and writing aficionados meet to tread a vast border territory. To the participants the **pordenonelegge.it** festival suggests many themes to delve into and brings writers, readers and publishers a stimulating occasion to compare notes. The 2013 Collection Day strengthens the dialogue between **pordenonelegge.it** and its public, promoting the development of diaristic writing in the near future: a way to recall individual and family memories back to life.

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