



1914

IN THE MIDDLE OF EUROPE

RHINELAND
AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR



MITTEN IN EUROPA
DAS RHEINLAND
UND DER ERSTE WELTKRIEG





WELCOME

It is 100 years since Europe teetered on the edge of an abyss: the Rhineland Regional Council (LVR) has initialized a large collaborative project in 2013/2014 that commemorates the outbreak of the First World War. It is the first time that its museums and cultural departments have worked together with a number of partners in the Rhineland to highlight the conditions leading up to, and consequences of, an event that history books call the “seminal catastrophe of the 20th century”. This unique cooperation includes an international congress as well as numerous exhibitions, events and excursions.

Our thanks go to the Ministry for Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sport in North Rhine Westphalia for their support as well as the Ministry for Federal Affairs, Europe and Media, the Ministry for Building, Housing, Urban Development and Transport in North Rhine Westphalia and all other partners and charitable foundations.

We invite you to take a close look at an issue that still particularly affects us here in the Rhineland, in the middle of Europe.

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wilhelm

Chairman of the
Rhineland Regional
Assembly

Ulrike Lubek

Director of the
Rhineland Regional
Council

1914 – IN THE MIDDLE OF EUROPE. RHINELAND AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Many people have set out to research what George F. Kennan called the “seminal catastrophe of the 20th century”. The LVR has also set out to make its own contribution with its museums and cultural institutions; commemoration of this internationally significant event will be part of a shared narrative spanning the whole of daily life through to high culture. The object is to create an “image of an era” by analysing a time in which, in many respects, we can still see ourselves.

The Rhineland is a region that played a particular role before, during and after the First World War and is therefore the focus of this narrative. In the Rhineland the ambivalence of the Wilhelmine Period – economic progress and social injustice, authoritarian social structures and cultural upheaval, comparatively long periods of peace and national militarism – was particularly pronounced. The centres of economic power in the Rhineland were based on coal and steel as well as the new burgeoning industries of machinery, electronics and chemicals. Even prior to 1914, however, a leading art scene between Berlin and Paris established itself here.

The Rhineland was “border country”; the so-called “cannons railway” between Berlin and Metz ran through it and so after Alsace-Lorraine, the Rhineland province was an important defence or deployment zone and mobilization area for a regime based on fleet building and “cannon policy” that was



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clearly striving for world power. The manufacture of armaments, the construction of barracks, garrison and military strongholds and railway and bridge construction projects would prove to be strategically significant decades later when preparing for another armed conflict.

Ultimately, the Rhineland province was a suitable blank canvas for the projection of ideological weapons; by the middle of the 19th century Rheingold sagas like “The Nibelungs” popularised a nationalism that neither “Father Rhine” or the “Lorelei” could escape from. The linking of Prussian and military values was given a particularly Rhenish flavour with building projects in the Rhineland area, from landmarks like the “Deutsches Eck” (German Corner) together with an equestrian statue of Emperor Wilhelm I as well as Cologne cathedral, completed in 1880, and the Hohenzollern Bridge in Cologne.

From September 2013 through to spring 2015, numerous exhibitions and a comprehensive events programme will be dedicated to “Rhineland and the First World War”. From 23.09 – 25.09.2013 in the LVR-State Museum Bonn, the international congress “Aggression and Avant-garde”, a

cooperation between the LVR Department for Culture and the Environment, the North Rhine Westphalia Centre for Political Education and the Rhineland Association for the Preservation of Historical Monuments and Landscape with the assistance of renowned experts from various disciplines, will highlight this topic's many facets.

Milena Karabaic M.A.

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of Culture and the
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PD Dr. Thomas Schleper

Project director



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1914 – EXHIBITIONS

24.09.2013 – 23.03.2014

1914 – The world in colour

Colour photographs before the war
LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn

23.02. – 29.06.2014

His eyes drink everything

Max Ernst, Art and Culture on the eve of the First World War
Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR

28.03. – 14.12.2014

War and Light

Dynamism of rural electrification in the First World War
LVR-Freilichtmuseum Lindlar

27.04. – 14.09.2014

A new dawn approaches ...

Cooperatives in the Rhineland 1900 – 1918
Ehemalige Konsumgenossenschaft Vorwärts e.V., Wuppertal

30.04. – 26.10.2014

1914 – In the middle of Europe

Coking Plant Zollverein, Essen
LVR-Industriemuseum Oberhausen and Ruhr Museum
Essen

02.05. – 06.08.2014

Modernism. World War. Lunatic asylum. 1900 – 1930

Cracks in psychiatry • Art and psychiatry
Psychiatriegeschichtliches Dokumentationszentrum Düren
(PDZ)/Leopold-Hoesch-Museum & Papiermuseum Düren

1914 – EXHIBITIONS

16.05.2014 – 07.09.2014

At the frontiers of the Empire

Excavations in the Xanten legionary fortress on the eve of the First World War

LVR-RömerMuseum im Archäologischen Park Xanten

29.06.2014 – 18.10.2015

War in the Rhineland

Between elation and despair

LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

11.09.2014 – 07.12.2014

Symbols against war

Anti-war sculpture from Lehmbruck's *Fallen Man* to the present day

Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg

14.09.2014 – 30.11.2014

Oh, we muddled Rhinelanders ...

Between awakening and inertia.

Rhineland and literary life 1900 – 1914

Heinrich-Heine-Institut Düsseldorf

26.10.2014 – 25.01.2015

Playing Lawrence On The Other Side

The Klein Expedition and the German Oriental Politics in the First World War

Preußen-Museum NRW, Wesel

22.11.2014 – 22.02.2015

Cologne 1914. Metropolis in the West

Kölnisches Stadtmuseum/

Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln/

Stiftung Rheinisch-Westfälisches Wirtschaftsarchiv zu Köln

1914 – EVENTS

WDR 3 Radio day

Breathless, staggering, overheated

The eve of the First World War

21.09.2013

Traces of history – Archaeology and the First World War

LVR-State Service for Archaeological Heritage

Campaign Days between 30.03. and 21.09.2014

LVR-Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege im Rheinland

Journey through time in the North Eifel region

Excursions within the LVR-Network Environment

Second half of 2014

LVR-Fachbereich Umwelt

On the trail of ...

Excursion programme by the

Thomas More Academy in Bensberg

The excursion programme laid on by the Thomas More Academy in Bensberg on the topic of "1914 – In the middle of Europe", shows many different, surprising things that began on the eve of the First World War.

Thomas-Morus-Akademie Bensberg

The details of other events and programmes will be continually added and updated from September 2013 on www.rheinland1914.lvr.de.



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1914 – SPECIAL PROJECTS

KuLaDig – Digital culture landscape

www.kuladig.lvr.de is the LVR's information system about the historic cultural landscape and its heritage in the Rhineland. As part of the "1914 – In the middle of Europe" project, KuLaDig will be continually updated with objects and information about the First World War.



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Rhenish history portal

www.rheinische-geschichte.lvr.de is a comprehensive, continually growing portal of information about the history of the Rhineland from its beginnings through to the present day. If you are looking for information on universities in the First World War, war psychiatry in the Rhineland or the political significance of the Rhine on the eve of the 20th century's seminal catastrophe and its Rhenish protagonists, you can find it here.

INFORMATION, CONTACT

Academic advice under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Gertrude Cepl-Kaufmann combines expertise from historical, social and cultural studies. The advisory board was consulted by the project partners and was involved in planning the congress.

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Up-to-date information on the "1914 – In the middle of Europe" project can be found from September 2013 on www.rheinland1914.lvr.de. It includes information about all the topics and dates as well opening times, entrance fees etc.

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MAIN SPONSORS

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demokratie leben

Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Nordrhein-Westfalen



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