

Alumni Travel Reading List
The Great Journey Through Europe
June 15th- June 25th, 2014

Prepared by Penn Library Subject Specialist:

Vickie Marre Karasic
Weigle Information Commons Intern

“This extraordinary 11-day ‘Grand Tour’ of Europe features five nights aboard the Deluxe Amadeus Fleet. Travel through Switzerland, France, Germany, and The Netherlands, cruising the most scenic sections of the Rhine River. Spend two nights each in Lucerne and Zermatt, enjoy a scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne, and ride aboard three legendary railways — the Pilatus Railway, the world’s steepest cogwheel railway; the Glacier Express from Lucerne to Zermatt; and the Gornergrat Bahn, for breathtaking views of the Matterhorn.” (Description from the Penn Alumni Travel webpage).

Suggested Readings

History

Church, Clive H. *A Concise History of Switzerland*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.
Church presents a comprehensive and engaging account of Switzerland’s historical and cultural development from the Middle Ages to the present. The book traces major political, economic, religious, and social events in Switzerland’s history, concluding with contemporary issues that the country faces.

Moore, Tim. *The Grand Tour: The European Adventure of a Continental Drifter*. St. Martin’s Griffin, 2002.
Read about the original “Grand Tour,” which began in 1608 with Thomas Coryate’s travels (by foot) across Europe. In this informative and humorous account, Tim Moore traces Coryate’s trails through France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Holland (in a second-hand Rolls-Royce) with memorable adventures that are sure to interest all travelers of these regions.

Guidebooks

Maycock, Kendall. *Switzerland—Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture*. Kuperard, 2006.

Maycock provides a concise and accurate guide to Swiss customs, attitudes and culture for an awareness of what to expect when visiting the country. These “inside” tips will help travelers feel more comfortable in basic interactions with Swiss people.

Recht, Roland, *The Rhine: Culture and Landscape at the Heart of Europe*. Thames & Hudson, 2001.

Take a tour through the Rhine Valley with Recht’s illustrated account of Europe’s most significant and majestic river. With beautiful photos and detailed historical and geographic context, Recht’s work provides a vivid and comprehensive introduction to the region.

Fiction

Nescio (J.H.F. Grönloh), *Amsterdam Stories*; Introduction by Joseph O’Neill; Trans. Damion Searls. NYRB Classics, 2012.

Jan Hendrik Frederik Grönloh – pen name Nescio, meaning “I don’t know” in Latin – is considered one of the most influential prose writers in Dutch literature. In this collection, *New York Review of Books* has put together some of Nescio’s best known stories about youth and growing up in Amsterdam, painting vivid pictures of the city and its surrounding landscape.

Project Gutenberg's *Poems and Ballads of Heinrich Heine*, by Heinrich Heine; Trans. Emma Lazarus (1881).

Heinrich Heine was one of the most influential German poets of the 19th century. Heine is most well known for his lyrical poetry, including his poem about the legend of the Lorelei, a siren of the Lorelei Rock on the eastern bank of the Rhine. Project Gutenberg offers free access to Emma Lazarus’s translation of Heine’s poetry (“The Lorelei” can be found in Section II “Homeward Bound,” pp. 58-59).

Food & Drink

Nelson, Kay Shaw. *All Along the Rhine: Recipes, Wines and Lore From Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein and Holland*. Hippocrene Books, 2003.

Nelson's book provides a glimpse into the flavors of the Rhine Valley, with over 130 traditional and contemporary recipes that highlight local favorites. This illustrated collection also includes snippets from literature, folklore and legend to give the reader a broad picture of the Rhine's cultural legacy.

Lundquist, Susan, Hossine Bennara and Frederic Lacroix. *The Pâtissier: Recipes and Conversations from Alsace, France*. iUniverse, Inc., 2006.

Through recipes and conversational tidbits, Susan Lundquist recounts her first year as an American in Strasbourg, France, and her relationship with her neighbor, an Alsatian chef, who taught her as much about food as Alsatian culture. The book includes a brief history of the Alsatian territory, important gastronomical festivals, and Alsatian recipes and specialties by month throughout the calendar year.

Film

Video Visits: Discovering France. Questar, 2001.

A comprehensive view of France and its culture, this documentary DVD is nicely narrated with breathtaking views of France's well-traveled regions. Highlights include the vineyards of Champagne, Burgundy and Bordeaux, castles and villages of the northern regions, and the French Alps.

The Miracle of Bern (Das Wunder von Bern). Universal Pictures Germany, 2004.

Set in post-war Germany in 1954, the plot centers around 11-year old Matthias, a soccer-loving boy whose father has just returned home from war. Alienated by his father, Matthias has found an idol in a local soccer player chosen to play on the German team in the 1954 World Cup in Bern, Switzerland. In this touching story, Matthias reignites his relationship with his father, which coincides with a wonderful, if unexpected, outcome for the German World Cup team.