

## Front pages from history

# Holding the front page

### JOSEP BOSCH

● The Josep Bosch Collection is a privately funded project to recover, restore, preserve and exhibit historical newspapers from all over the world. Initiated in May 1968 it now includes thousands of original newspapers in many languages. The collection houses a vast array of newspapers depicting important historic events, published in the city or country where the event took place.

The collection spans from 1898 (the year of the Spanish American war over Cuba) to the present day. That war coincided with a new era in the history of newspapers; better design, bigger type and headlines, the use of more graphics. Also a famous by-product, 'yellow' journalism, which saw big-city publications, especially in New York, compete for readers ferociously with headlines evermore bold and news increasingly sensationalised. Truly it was the beginning of the golden age of the newspaper, as it became hugely influential and ubiquitous in society. Many fear that this golden era is now coming to an end because of the new trend towards electronic distribution of news via television and the world-wide-web.

The collection's most salient catalogues include events in the First and Second World War, the history of aviation and space discovery, the Cold War, the Spanish Civil War (with more than 3,500 newspapers), the history of Asia and a special section on "famous people".

The newspapers are all original, as published, and some are restored and treated to prevent further deterioration and to facilitate their exhibition. Common treatment for preservation includes surface cleaning, to reduce superficial dirt accumulated through dust or humidity; washing, to avoid the risk of acidity and withdraw dirt and stains; alkalization (or de-acidification), to combat acid deterioration by neutralizing the acid present in papers; mending of tears; reinforcing brittle paper by backing it with Japanese paper, filling areas of paper loss; and the removal of mould is also central to the process.

In different formats, this collection has been exhibited in 14



Josep Bosch at the Prunksaal of the National Library in Vienna, with a copy of France-Soir, reporting on the famous May 1968 student revolt, the newspaper that started the collection. Top right: La Vanguardia's 1929 front page of a soldier kissing his sweetheart. Bottom right: El Diluvio's defiant Civil War message from 1936



cities in nine countries: Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Montenegro, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, Panama and El Salvador. Among some of the locations

where the exhibitions were held are the Prunksaal of the Austrian National Library, the Museo de las Ciencias Príncipe Felipe, in Valencia, the Museo del Canal

Interoceánico de Panama, in Panama City; and Casa América, in Madrid. The nomadic nature of the collection means that sound preservation is all-important.

## Keeping the world connected with it's past



The International Federation of Library Associations is the global voice for archives and collections worldwide that has been responsible for allowing maximum access to newspapers spanning the last century. Founded in 1927, and with members from 155 countries worldwide, the IFLA has been a front-runner in championing freedom of information, and allows major libraries to interact and learn from one-another about preservation and organisation.

Each year the IFLA holds a conference which discusses the maintenance of the world's main newspaper collections, addressing issues that will determine the longevity of our written heritage. Within Europe the federation brings together the leading newspaper collections based in cities such as Stockholm, Zagreb, Dortmund and London, working to increase the wealth of shared historical knowledge. In an increasingly electronic age, such work to preserve printed material by those such as the IFLA is crucial.



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The abdication of Nicholas II

- The Daily Chronicle (later absorbed by the Daily Mail) relays the events of the 1917 February Revolution, as the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II, was forced to abdicate. As regiment after regiment of his previously loyal army mutinied and chaos broke out in the cities, a Provisional government formed to take charge and forced the Tsar to stand down as ruler.



Franco captures Barcelona

- After an assault on the city by Nationalist troops that lasted just under a month, the City fell into Francisco Franco's hands on January 26th 1939, and all but ended the Civil War as the last major Republican stronghold was captured. By March of 1939, the Republican army had disintegrated and the government had fled to exile in France. War's end was announced April 1.



War breaks out in Europe and the Pacific

- The top image shows the Daily Herald's report on the Allied declaration of war. In early September 1939 the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany following its invasion of Poland, an ally that the countries had sworn to protect from it's neighbour. Previously the allies had followed a policy of appeasement that allowed Hitler to take Austria and the Sudetenland into Nazi hands unopposed.
- The lower image refers to the Japanese attack on the US military naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. The base was devastated and over 2,000 troops killed as the US was officially dragged into the war. The exclamation of the headline underlines the surprise factor of the attack. The US was then fighting on two fronts in Europe and the Pacific until the end of the war.



The final fall of Berlin

- Chicago's Daily Times leads with a bold and simple statement chronicling the capture of Berlin by the Allies which signalled the end of World War II. Following the suicide of Adolf Hitler on April 30, and the meeting of Soviet and Allied troops at the river Elbe, the Allies took control of Berlin. The day before the death of the Fuhrer and a day after the assassination of Mussolini by Italian partisans, Nazi troops in Italy surrendered and began to return to Germany. Germany itself officially surrendered on May 7, before the Allied leaders met at Potsdam to conclude earlier agreements about the occupation of post-war Germany on the 11. The war, which had raged for six long years, was finally declared over on August 15 1945 when the Japanese surrendered.



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The JFK assassination and Monroe's suicide

- On August 5, 1962, LAPD police sergeant Jack Clemmons was the first to find Marilyn Monroe dead at her home in Brentwood, Los Angeles, California. Many questions remain unanswered about the circumstances of her death but it was recorded as "acute barbiturate poisoning" and "probable suicide".
- On November 22 in the following year President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas. Oswald himself was killed two days later by Jack Ruby before he could be put on trial. In 1979 The House Select Committee on Assassinations declared that Harvey Oswald did not commit the crime alone, but that he was part of a bigger conspiracy group.

Ghandi murdered after securing independence

- On January 30, 1948 Mahatma Gandhi was shot while out on his evening walk in Delhi by a Hindu extremist Mahasabha, Nathuram Godse. He held Gandhi responsible for making India weaker through the payments made to fierce rivals Pakistan. On August 15 of the previous year, Gandhi had secured a full transfer of power from the British and established full independence. His close friend and colleague Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the nation after his death with the words, "Friends and comrades, the light has gone out of our lives, and there is darkness everywhere".

Evita immortalised

- On July 26, 1952, The Spiritual leader of the Nation of Argentina, Eva Perón, died. Having suffered terribly from cancer, and undergone chemotherapy, which was extremely rare at the time, Perón weighed just 36kg towards the end of her life. On the news of her death the entire country ground to a halt and an official state funeral was organised in Buenos Aires. Perón had pushed for a vice-presidential role alongside her husband, President Juan Perón, however her uncertain health prohibited the move from happening. She had to endure attacks of sexism, especially from the military, but her strength of character won the love of a nation.

Batista abandons Cuba

- The Havana Times recounts the abrupt end of Fulgencio Batista's regime in Cuba in 1959, as Fidel Castro led the fight against the increasingly disillusioned leader. Having resigned from his government post, Batista made sure his entire family was evacuated to the US without helping any others.

Beatles into limelight in UK

- The sensation that was The Beatles crops up for the first time on one of Britain's front pages. John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr formed the band in 1960 and enjoyed unprecedented success for the next swinging decade.



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### Two events that became landmarks in the history of world Communism

● In 1989, the UK Times newspaper reported on two stories that shook the world and marked a change in the history of Communism. In June, a student protest in Tiananmen square in Beijing ended in a massacre when the ruling Communist party sent army units in

to break-up the demonstration. A frontpage photograph of a young man with a shopping bag preventing a column of tanks from entering the square became the iconic image of the unfortunate incident.

Other iconic images came out of another world-

shaking moment in 1989 when the Berlin Wall, for so long the symbol of the Cold War between East and West, finally came down in November. Germans from both sides of the divide joyously tore the wall down while the border guards looked on.



### Humans on moon

● Neil Armstrong became the first human being to walk on the moon in July 1969. The historic event dominated headlines. The event produced one of the most famous lines ever spoken: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"



### 9/11, the day that changed the world

● On September 11, 2001 the world changed when two passenger planes were flown into the World Trade Center twin towers in New York. The co-ordinated attack attributed to the Al-Qaeda terrorist network also involved another plane crashing into the Pentagon and a further plane that crash-landed in Pennsylvania. The incident set off a chain of events that led the Bush administration to invade Afghanistan to root out the Taliban government that had sheltered Al-Qaeda and to invade Iraq and depose the Saddam Hussein regime. The 9/11 incident, as it has become known, also provided some of the most startling and horrific images ever seen in the world's media.

# NOBUKO KIHIRA

NOVA EXPOSICIÓ A LA PLAÇA DEL MONESTIR DE SANT CUGAT DEL VALLÈS  
del 19 de juny al 21 de setembre

Plaça d'Octavià, 16 - SANT CUGAT

canals  
galeria d'art

Socis protectors:

celoxxi

SC TRADE CENTER

Diari de Sant Cugat

Amb el suport de:

Generalitat de Catalunya  
Institut Català  
de les Indústries Culturals

associació (art)catalunya