

Tourists in a Venetian gondola, from an album of topographical photographs associated with Prince Leopold 1st Duke of Albany, c1884. Manuscript Collection MS 317



'Italy', from *The World in Miniature* (London, 1825). Briggs Collection LT210.G/W6

GRAND TOURISTS AND OTHERS

TRAVELLING ABROAD BEFORE THE 20TH CENTURY

The unique collection of objects displayed in this exhibition traces the long and complex history of British leisure travel in the period 1650-1900.

In 1650 the aristocratic Grand Tour was firmly established as a finishing school for young elite men, who often took several years to complete it. Overseas travel was almost entirely the preserve of the rich.

During the Victorian period modern 'tourism' as a popular phenomenon emerged, and today's global travelling had already begun. Middle-class travel was common and a trip abroad of just a couple of weeks rather than years was typical.

The University of Nottingham's collections of manuscript diaries, correspondence, passports, bills, receipts, sketches made on the

move and books about faraway places document trips made by a significant number of travellers from the East Midlands. Their travels form the core of the exhibition.

Travel before modern times was certainly hard work, very slow

and often quite dangerous. It could also be improving, exciting and fun.

The exhibition is organised around five main themes: Going Abroad; On the Road; Destinations; Art, Nature and Parties! and Memories.



Detail showing Drummond sketching (an aqueduct in Smyrna, Anatolia), from Alexander Drummond, *Travels through different cities of Germany, Italy, Greece, and several parts of Asia* (London, 1794). Special Collection Over. X D972.D7

This exhibition has been jointly curated by Ross Balzaretto (Associate Professor of History in the School of Humanities) and Manuscripts and Special Collections at The University of Nottingham.

The Grand Tour

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