

Memory of the World Register
Tabula Peutingeriana

Ref N° 2006-12

Part A – Essential Information

1.Summary

The *Tabula Peutingeriana* is the unique preserved map of the road system for the *cursus publicus*, the public transport system in use in the Roman Empire. It covers the complete area of the provinces under Roman rule and the territories conquered by Alexander the Great in the East. It is preserved in 11 segments, written on parchment at the end of the 12th century. The *Tabula* can be seen as a mediaeval facsimile imitating the book scroll in use in Antiquity.

Completely preserved in the Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections of the National Library (Cod. 324), the *Tabula Peutingeriana* contains many insights for the history of administration and economy of the Roman Empire. It still serves as a guide, where Roman roads are preserved and archaeological sites go back to the period of the Roman Empire. The aim of the *Tabula* was not the depiction of the regions concerned as a geographical map, but to show the structure and network of the *cursus publicus*. This explains the missing depiction of the sea and the orientation of the map West – East and is a parallel to actual diagrams used in the trains of the underground in European cities.

2.Details of the Nominator

2.1Name (person or organization)

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library)

2.2Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

Owner

2.3Contact person

Ernst Gamillscheg

2.4Contact details (include address, phone, fax, e-mail)

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Handschriften-, Autographen- und Nachlaß-Sammlung (Austrian National Library, Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections)

Josefsplatz 1, 1015 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43/1/53410/288, Fax: +43/1/53410/296

(Ernst.Gamillscheg@onb.ac.at)

3.Identity and Description of the Documentary Heritage

3.1Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Tabula Peutingeriana, Austrian National Library, Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections (Cod. 324)

3.2Description

The *Tabula Peutingeriana* consists of 11 segments with the map, written on parchment (the size for the 11 segments is 340cm to 6745cm).

The diagram for the road system of the *cursus publicus* contains symbols for the different cities according to their importance.

4. Justification for Inclusion / Assessment against Criteria

4.1 Authenticity

The *Tabula Peutingeriana* is the unique map preserved for the *cursus publicus*, its content can be dated to first half of the 5th century. The actual manuscript is an authentic copy in the form of the book-scroll, written at the end of the 12th century and shows the feature of the book scroll, the form of books in use in Antiquity. It is preserved in the Austrian National Library, Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections under the shelfmark Cod. 324.

4.2 World significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability

As the unique map for the *cursus publicus*, the *Tabula Peutingeriana* is of great importance for all studies concerning the administration and economy of the Roman Empire. Available since the early 16th century among humanist circles, it was acquired by Prince Eugene of Savoy in the 18th century and became with the library of the general in the service of the Habsburg family part of the Imperial Court Library, the *Bibliotheca Caesarea Vindobonensis*. Much information about the topography and historical geography concerning archaeological sites in Europe, Africa and Asia are only known via the *Tabula Peutingeriana*.

4.3 Criteria of a (time) b (place) c (people) d (subject and theme) e (form and style) Criterion a and b (time and place) are met by the fact, that the *Tabula Peutingeriana* contains unique information concerning topography and geography of all the provinces and territories under Roman rule. The influence of Roman civilization is still alive and the *Tabula* is a document for the period, when one civilization with local differences can be observed, for instance by the remaining mosaic floors with similar motives in Italy, Asia Minor, North Africa or France and the provinces on the border of the Roman Empire such as *Pannonia* and *Noricum*.

Criterion d (subject and theme) is met by the fact, that the *Tabula* is the unique preserved map for the *cursus publicus* and contains information, normally not preserved in manuscripts. The symbols used for the great cities of the period in the *Tabula* can be compared with other documents from Late Antiquity showing the depiction of the protecting goddess, e.g. the diptycha, given as a present by important persons in the period.

Criterion e (form and style) is met by the fact, that the *Tabula Peutingeriana* is one of two preserved book scrolls, made in the middle ages as an imitation of the form used for literary texts in Antiquity (book-scroll, written on papyrus): The other manuscript is kept in the *Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana* (Rome) and contains the text of the Old Testament (*Joshua-Rotulus*). This manuscript was copied in the 10th century in Constantinople.

4.4 Issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management

As pointed out in 4.1 the *Tabula Peutingeriana* is the unique completely preserved map for the *cursus publicus*; its integrity is secured by storage in plastic glass with ventilation and the use of facsimile for readers in the Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections. The availability of echtaochromes for reproduction is necessary to preserve this document for the history and culture of Late Antiquity.

5. Legal Information

5.1 Owner of documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Federal Republic of Austria

Contact: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Handschriften-, Autographen- und Nachlaß-Sammlung (Austrian National Library, Department of Manuscripts, Departments and Closed Collections)

Josefsplatz 1, 1015 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43/1/53410/288, Fax: +43/1/53410/296
(Ernst.Gamillscheg@onb.ac.at)

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to the owner)

Ernst Gamillscheg (Head of the Department)

5.3 Legal status:

a) Category of ownership: Public (Austrian National Library)

b) Accessibility: Access for scholars in the Reading Room of the Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections is restricted to the facsimile published in 1976 by the ADEVA (Graz)

c) Copyright status: Public domain

d) Responsible administration: Handschriften-, Autographen- und Nachlaß-Sammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek (Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections, Austrian National Library)

6. Management Plan

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage: Yes

The *Tabula Peutingeriana* is one of the treasures of the Austrian National Library. There are guidelines for the storage in terms of safety and conditions for preservation, the *Tabula* is kept in a particular safe in the depot of the Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections.

For the *Tabula* there are ektachromes available to serve the demand of reproductions; these ektachromes are available in the Department of Portraits, Pictures and Fideicommiss Library of the Austrian National Library.

7 Consultation

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional Memory of the World committee

The nomination was prepared by the custodian in accordance with the Austrian National Committee and is lodged by the owner in cooperation with the Austrian National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme.

Part B – Subsidiary Information

8 Assessment of Risk

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage

Apart from some damage on the parchment, the *Tabula Peutingeriana* is in good condition. To preserve this unique document for the history of Late Antiquity, access is restricted to the facsimile.

9 Assessment of Preservation

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage

The *Tabula Peutingeriana* is preserved in a particular safe in the depot of the Department of Manuscripts, Autographs and Closed Collections, the 11 segments are stored in plastic glass with ventilation.

Part C – Lodgement

This nomination is lodged by:

Dr. Johanna Rachinger (Director General of the Austrian National Library)