

MoW Register Nominations - Behaim Globe

1. Title / Titre

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Behaim Globe

2. Summary / Résumé

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The "Behaim Globe" is the world's earliest surviving terrestrial globe. Created at the turning point between the pre- and post-Columbian eras, it is a milestone in the history of cartography. The globe was commissioned by the Nuremberg city council and was constructed and illustrated between 1492 and 1494, at the same time that Christopher Columbus was on his first and second voyages westward. The New World is not yet depicted; Eurasia and Africa still dominate the image of the world. Thus, in a unique way, the globe represents the crucial "productive mistake" that prompted Columbus's westward voyage.

The globe's images and texts display about 2000 place-names, more than 200 cartographic symbols, and many inscriptions which report general knowledge from the time around 1500. Thus it is an outstanding compendium of both old and new eras, simultaneously reflecting earlier, static geohistorical knowledge and new media invented to advance a dynamic global exchange. The globe's creator, Martin Behaim, spent his life between Germany and Portugal. Because of his itinerant career, he was esteemed as the "most widely travelled contemporary" in the Holy Roman Empire; however, he was also mistrusted as "displaced person" who failed to maintain a modest life in one location.

3. Nominator contact details / Coordonnées de l'auteur

3.1 Name of nominator / Nom de l'auteur de la proposition

Germanisches National Museum

3.2 Relationship to the nominated material / Relation avec l'élément considéré du patrimoine documentaire

Owning Institution

3.3 Address / Adresse

Germanisches Nationalmuseum
Kornmarkt 1
90402 Nürnberg
Germany

3.4 Telephone / Téléphone

+49 911 1331 100 and +49 911 1331 200

3.5 Email / Courriel

generaldirektion@gnm.de and t.eser@gnm.de

3.6 Co-nominator(s), if any / Co-auteur(s), le cas échéant

4. Declaration of Authority / Déclaration sur l'honneur

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the item, or items, described in this document to the Memory of the World Register.
Je certifie sur l'honneur, proposer le patrimoine documentaire décrit dans ce document au Registre international de la Mémoire du monde

Declaration of authority / Déclaration sur l'honneur

Yes

Full name / Nom et prénom

Prof. Dr. G. Ulrich Großmann
General Director
Germanisches Nationalmuseum

Date

1/22/2018

5. Legal information / Informations juridiques

5.1 Name of owner / Nom du propriétaire

Germanisches National Museum

5.2 Address / Adresse

Germanisches National Museum
Kornmarkt 1
90402 Nürnberg
Germany

5.3 Telephone / Téléphone

+49 911 1331 100

5.4 Email / Adresse électronique

generaldirektion@gnm.de

5.5 Name and contact details of custodian / Nom et coordonnées du dépositaire

5.6 Legal status / Statut juridique

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum, a public law foundation, is owner of the Behaim Globe. The museum is responsible for research on the globe, for its public presentation and for all duties regarding its conservation and preservation.

5.7 Copyright status / Droits d'auteur

Copyright owner of photographs of the Behaim Globe is the Germanisches Nationalmuseum. Visitors of the museum can make own photographs by themselves with free licences. The museum is in depth to current free licence and open access philosophies regarding cultural heritage in public ownership.

5.8 Accessibility / Accessibilité

The globe is on permanent view in the galleries of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum. It can be examined daily by all visitors within the opening hours. Historic material regarding the globe is open for scientific research and held by the archives and library of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum. Photographs can be ordered at the museum's photographic department.

The last extensive edition of the globe is from 1908 and completely outdated (E.G. Ravenstein: Martin Behaim: his life and his globe. London, 1908). Therefore a modern up-to-date and open access based and in-depth-commenting edition of the Behaim Globe and its images and texts is a core requirement of its public understanding in future.

A preliminary "Virtual Behaim Globe" at the moment is available via "Marble":

<https://marble.kde.org/maps.php>

<https://marble.kde.org/img/screenshots/android/Behaim-Globe-1.0.0.jpg>

These editions will not redundandise a further, professional digital edition with commentaries that could be stimulated by a nomination for the "Memory of the World Register".

6. Identity and description of the documentary heritage / Identité et description de l'élément du patrimoine documentaire

6.1 Name and identification details / Nom et identification de l'élément proposé

Terrestrial Globe, so called "Behaim Globe" or "Globe of Martin Behaim"

Height 133 cm; Dm. of the sphere 51 cm. Globe sphere: glued textile, parchment; painted paper. Globe rack: forged iron, painted; cast brass, punched and engraved

Nuremberg, 1492-1494. Content concept and design by Martin Behaim (1459-1507); Illuminations by Georg Glockendon, dated in the inscription around the southern pole; "gemacht worden ...1492". Final bill of cost dated "1494" (Nuremberg Stadtarchiv, Rep. A 26/I (Rep. 80/IV ad. 3)).

Later modifications: In 1510 the iron meridian was displaced by a meridian made of brass, still existent. In 1823 the globe was restored and to certain extend rewritten by Nuremberg globemakers Karl and Johann Bernhard Bauer.

6.2 Type of document/ Type de document

Maps / Cartes

6.3 Catalogue or registration details / Détails du catalogue ou de l'inscription

6.4 Visual documentation (if available and appropriate) / Documentation visuelle le cas échéant (si disponible et approprié)

[print versions of photographs at the end of this document; digitalized versions enclosed separately]

6.5 History/Provenance / Histoire/Provenance

1494 - ca. 1520: preserved in the chancellery ("Kanzlei") of the Nuremberg City Hall

ca. 1520 - ca. 1600: Upper writing room ("Obere Schreibstube") / Art collection Nuremberg City Hall

from ca. 1600 on in private ownership at the Behaim Family Collection Nuremberg, Egidienplatz 15

1906 given as permanent loan to the Germanisches Nationalmuseum by the Freiherrlich von Behaim'sche Familie

1937 acquired by the Museum from the Freiherrlich von Behaim'sche Familie (Slg. Wilhelm Freiherr Behaim von Schwarzbach auf Kirchensittenbach; gest. 1942)

6.6 Bibliography / Bibliographie

(manly excluding publications of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum and other Nuremberg institutions)

Friedrich Wilhelm Gillany: Geschichte des Seefahrers Ritter Martin Behaim nach den ältesten vorhandenen Urkunden. Nürnberg 1853

Ernst Georg Ravenstein: Martin Behaim. His life and his globe. With a facsimile of the globe printed in colours. Eleven maps and seventeen illustrations. London 1908

Oswald Muris: Der "Erdapfel" des Martin Behaim. (Geleitwort zu:) Der Behaim-Globus zu Nürnberg. Eine Faksimile-Wiedergabe in 92 Einzelbildern (Ibero-Amerikanisches Archiv 17 (1943), No. 1–2), Berlin 1943, p. 49-64

Focus Behaim Globus, Ausstellungskatalog. Konzeption und Katalog bearb. v. Johannes K. W. Willers (Ausstellungskataloge des Germanischen Nationalmuseums), 2 Vol., Nürnberg 1992

It was Martin Behaim of Nürnberg (1459-1507), who, in so far as we have knowledge, constructed one of the first modern terrestrial globes, and it may, indeed, be said of his "Erdapfel" ("Earth Apple"), as he called it, that it is the oldest terrestrial globe extant.

Edward Luther Stevenson: Terrestrial and celestial Globes. Their History and the Construction. New Haven 1921, p. 47

The globe is the earliest extant, and summarizes European knowledge of the world before Columbus' discoveries. At the time it was made it was of impressive authority, and its importance has long been recognized.

Charles William Reuben Dutton Moseley: Behaim's Globe and 'Mandeville's Travels'. In: Imago Mundi, 33, 1981, p. 89-91, here p. 89

In order to show interested townspeople the importance of the new sea routes and countries and to encourage them to finance a new expedition westwards to China, he [Behaim] had a globe made during this time by local craftsmen. His globe is the eldest terrestrial globe in the world still in existence.

Elly Dekker, Peter van der Krogt: Globes from the Western World. London 1993, p. 26

Not only was this the first strikingly secular terrestrial globe depicting the momentous changes which the traditional Ptolemaic world picture was experiencing, but it was also one of the first definitively global geographical images to place Africa as central, rather than peripheral, to the political commercial world of early modern Europe.

Jerry Brotton: Trading Territories. Mapping the early modern world. London 1997, p. 69

Parce qu'il est le premier conserve, parce qu'il est une réussite technique, et parce qu'il est daté de l'année même du premier voyage de Colomb, le globe der Martin Behaim est fort célèbre.

Patrick Gautier Dalché: Avant Behaim: Les globes terrestres au XV^e siècle. In: Médiévales, 58, 1/2010, p. 43-61, here p. 43

6.7 Referees

1. Elly Dekker

international renowned researcher in early globes (Catalogue of the National Maritime Museum's and the Museo di Storia della Scienza globe collection)

Dr. Elly Dekker, Meidoornlaan 13, 3461 ES Linschoten, The Netherlands; vanbueren-dekker@planet.nl

2. Günther Görz

long time research in "mappae mundi" and early depictions of the world, expert in digitizing cartographica as "cognitive maps"

Prof. Dr. Günther Görz, Department Informatik / KI, AG Digital Humanities, Konrad-Zuse-Str. 3-5, 91052 Erlangen, Germany; goerz@cs.fau.de

3. Peter Plaßmeyer

Director Mathematisch- Physikalischer Salon, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, with a world-renowned collection of globes

Dr. Peter Plaßmeyer, Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon, Zwinger, 01067 Dresden, Germany; mps@skd.museum

7.1 Primary criteria - significance value to the world. Comment on one or more of the following significance criteria / Critères principaux - valeur d'importance mondiale. Commentez sur un ou plusieurs des critères d'importance suivants

Not all the criteria will apply to your documentary heritage. Choose only those criteria that are relevant to your nomination.

Tous les critères ne s'appliqueront pas à votre patrimoine documentaire. Choisissez uniquement les critères pertinents pour votre candidature.

7.1.1 Historic significance / Signification historique

The Behaim Globe is the oldest still existing terrestrial globe in the world. Produced in 1492/94 it was one of the first European large scale globes of the post classic period. All elder globes today got lost.

Being the worldwide oldest still existing model of the earth in the shape of a sphere makes the Behaim Globe unique and irreplaceable. This outstanding superlative feature is accompanied by the globe's unique ambition to collect and preserve in its pictograms and text basic knowledge on geography and history. That encyclopaedic and totalitarian approach makes the Behaim Globe unique too. Because herein the globe's retrospective, conservative concept represents the shift from "closed" knowledge on the terrestrial status to a more "open" and fragile knowledge concept flourishing in the western world from 1500 on. (cf. commentaries above in 6.6.: Bibliography)

7.1.2 Form and style / Forme et style

The Behaim Globe's texture and iconography consists of about 200 images and icons and about 2,000 toponyms. While many of them refer to classic authorities like Marco Polo, Jean de Mandeville or Ptolemy especially the toponyms of the South Western African coast are considered the very first geographic naming of estuaries, bays, caps and other unknown and unnamed geographic items. Here the Behaim Globe has an outstanding, and not fully recognized, value as document for (imperialistic) step-by-step appropriation of the African continent by European mapping.

7.1.3 Social, community or spiritual significance / Importance sociale, spirituelle ou communautaire

The Behaim Globe's terrestrial image lacks any indications on hitherto unknown "New Continents" or "Terra Incognitae". As a paradox of synchronicity the globe was made and illuminated at the very same months in 1492/93 when Christopher Columbus was on his first "Trip to India". So the globe represents both: the media-based readiness for challenge and mobility in the so called "Age of Discovery"- and vice versa the tragic temporality of all scientific "canonical" knowledge about the physics of the earth.

7.2 Comparative criteria. Comment on one or more of the following comparative criteria / Critères comparatifs.

Commentez sur un ou plusieurs des critères comparatifs suivants :

7.2.1 Comparative criteria: Rarity / Critères comparatifs: Rareté

Being the world's eldest surviving terrestrial globe makes him unique and rare.

7.2.2 Integrity, completeness, condition / Intégrité, complétude, état

Technical consistence and structur of the globe's sphere and his stand have not been altered since 1492/94. The inscriptions and images on the globes surface to a certain extend have been restored around 1830 however still do depict the authentic contend Martin Behaim has designed in 1492.

7.3 Statement of significance / Déclaration d'importance

The Behaim Globe is the oldest still existing terrestrial globe in the world. Produced in 1492/94 it was one of the first European large scale globes of the post classic period. All elder globes today got lost.

8. Consultation with stakeholders / Consultation des partenaires

8.1 Details of consultation / Consultation des partenaires

The nomination of the Behaim Globe is highly supported by

The International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes

Dominikanerbastei 21/28

A-1010 Wien, Austria

<http://www.coronelli.org/>

The members of the Coronelli Society support the applicant in preparing arguments for the application.

9. Risk assessment / Evaluation des risques

9.1 Nature and scope of threats / Evaluation des risques

The Behaim Globe is under the curatorial and technical protection of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Germany's largest collection of items relating to German culture with an international renowned Institute for Art Technology and Conservation. The galleries where the globe is on display are in technical modern condition and have climatic and safety-related facilities pursuant to international exhibition standards (Facility Report available, see:

10. Preservation and access management plan / Plan de preservation et d'accessibilité

10.1 Existing plans or proposed conservation, storage and access strategies / Plans existants ou stratégies de conservation, de stockage et d'accès proposées

As a future project the Globe's texture shall be documented in a very high resolution photographic process via Multi Spectral Imaging. A cooperation with US based Lazarus Project (<https://www.lazarusprojectimaging.com/>) is in the status of planning. First test with high resolution cameras have been made in April 2017. The images shall be published under open access conditions in the WWW in cooperation with the University Erlangen-Nuremberg.

11. Additional information / Informations complémentaires

11.1 Additional information / Informations complémentaires

Provided a successful nomination the Germanisches Nationalmuseum as Germany's largest museum of cultural history will label all information on the globe – such as labelling in the permanent view, online object information, routing information systems, object catalogues and guides etc. – with explicit notes on the MoW-Program and the MoW listing of the globe.

Submission / Soumission

Submit to UNESCO

Yes

12. Checklist / Liste de contrôle

Summary completed / Résumé terminé (section 2)

Yes

Nomination and contact details completed / Nomination et coordonnées complétées (section 3)

Yes

Declaration of Authority signed and dated / Déclaration sur l'honneur signée et datée (section 4)

Yes

If this is a joint nomination, section 4 is appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained / S'il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription conjointe, la section 4 est modifiée de manière appropriée et toutes les déclarations d'autorité s

No

Legal information / Informations légales (section 5)

Yes

Details of custodian if different from owner / Détails du dépositaire si différent du propriétaire (section 5)

No

Details of legal status completed / Détails du statut juridique complétés (section 5)

Yes

Details of accessibility completed / Détails de l'accessibilité complétés (section 5)

Yes

Copyright permission for images completed / Autorisation de copyright pour les images complétée (section 5)

Yes

Catalogue and registration information / Catalogue et informations d'enregistrement (section 6)

Yes

History/provenance completed / Histoire / provenance complétée (section 6)

Yes