

**Travels in Finland and Bosnia-Herzegovina:
An Ethnographic Collection of Sir Arthur Evans**

Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford

29 April – 1 September 2013

This exhibition presents a selection of twenty-three drawings, sketches and photographs by the archaeologist Sir Arthur J. Evans (1851–1941). Probably best known for excavating the ancient site of Knossos in Crete, Arthur Evans was encouraged in his education by his father and travelled widely as a young man. Among his earliest adventures, made while still an undergraduate at Oxford, was a trip to Finnish Lapland with two friends in the summer of 1873. Setting off from England in early August, the party sailed along the Swedish coast as far as Tornio on the border with Finland, there transferring to an overland route and working their way northwards, on foot and by canoe, to Lake Inari in the Arctic Circle. Hiring local guides to pole their vessels up the rapids, the three Englishmen experienced ‘a country of tame reindeer’, as Evans recorded it in his journal, and ‘a people who evidently love ornament and colour’. The photographs taken by Evans, and more particularly his lively drawings of the Finnish and Saami settlements where they



1941.8.69

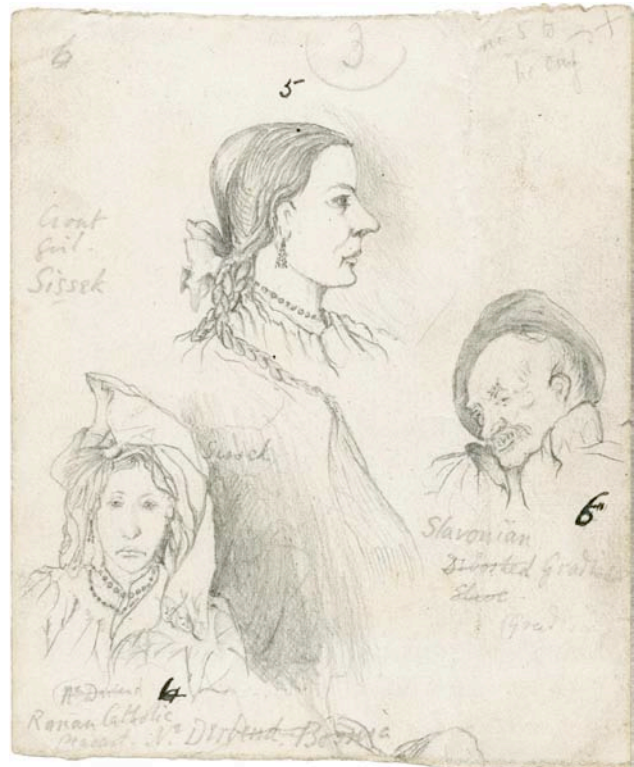
‘Finnish homestead shewing storehouse for fuel. Loft containing winter clothing & c. Stone house for fish - & steps & ladder of dwellinghouse’.
Photograph by Arthur Evans. Sodankylä, Finland. August 1873.



Portrait of a Saami girl. 'This is a delightful little family', Arthur Evans wrote of the group's hosts at Lake Inari in Finnish Lapland. 'There is a little girl of 3 in a Lapp cap & blue tunic with the usual blue stripes about it; & a little boy of 5 who recited his A.B.C. for our edification. The children both have flaxen hair & blueish eyes, as among Finns & Swedes.'

Drawing by Arthur Evans. September 1873.

1941.8.97



Faces of people encountered on a voyage through Bosnia and Herzegovina. 'Here is a Greek Christian girl that we saw at a well, and who graciously allowed us to slake our thirst from the bucket she had just drawn up.' The delicate portraits show the aforementioned (Christian) Bosniak girl encountered near Derventa (bottom left), a Croat girl at Sisak (centre), and a man from Slavonia seen at Gradiška (right).

Drawings by Arthur Evans. August 1875.

1941.8.176



1941.8.184

Bulgarian settlement in Maksimir Park on the outskirts of Zagreb. Evans recorded that 'two Bulgarians [were] hard at work tying up bundles of onions, clad in their dark national costume – the brown tight-sleeved jacket embroidered with black, the dull red sash, the brown trowser-leggings which are equally Turkish and Tartar, and on their head the black sheepskin cap which had at first attracted my attention'.

Drawing by Arthur Evans. August 1875.

stayed, exhibit the wide-eyed excitement of youth and provide a visual narrative of the journey. Evans returned home with memories and some objects, and an interest in northern peoples, but never put to paper anything more on the remarkable voyage.

Also highlighted are various drawings and ink sketches made by Arthur Evans while travelling with his brother through Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1875. These show places and people encountered on a route south from Agram (present-day Zagreb) – via Tešanj, Sarajevo and Mostar – to Ragusa (Dubrovnik), traversing a region which at the time was suffering considerable unrest. The illustrations demonstrate a particular interest in physiognomy and dress, Evans writing concurrently, for example, of Turks, of Southern Slavs and the 'beauty of the Croatian peasant costume'. Undertaken primarily as an *aide-mémoire*, the drawings subsequently also provided the basis for engravings published in his account of the journey, *Through Bosnia and the Herzegovina on Foot during the Insurrection, August and September 1875* (1876), whose success brought about a second edition the following year.

Displayed alongside Evans' own drawings and photographs is a selection of related material collected by him. This includes sixteen *cartes de visite* showing portraits of Saami people by studios in Norway and Sweden, including those of Marcus Selmer (Bergen), Rosalie Sjöman (Stockholm) and Jørgen Wickstrøm (Tromsø); four lithographs depicting scenes of everyday life in Swedish Lapland; and a Saami spoon made of carved reindeer antler. Also included are four *cartes de visite* by the Ignacy Krieger studio (Krakow); and four photographs of Russian 'types' by William Carrick (St. Petersburg). The majority of Sir Arthur Evans' archive is held by the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, where for many years he was Keeper. This collection, being principally ethnographic, was donated to the Pitt Rivers Museum by Joan Evans, biographer and half-sister of the archaeologist, in 1941.