



## **Holiday Markets**

### **Resources from PLL Trip Scholar Susie Ledbetter**

**The Rhine: Following Europe's Greatest River from Amsterdam to the Alps**, Ben Coates  
(Shortlisted for the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year Award)

This is a most enjoyable read. One of the reviews calls it “a captivating mixture of travel and history.” *Smithsonian's* Books of the Year selection described it as “both a travelogue and historic account of how the river shaped Europe”.

One of the world's greatest rivers, the Rhine once formed the outer frontier of the Roman Empire. It flows 800 miles from the Netherlands, through the industrial and political powerhouses of Germany and France, to the mountain fortresses of Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Coates sets out by bicycle from the Netherlands where it enters the North Sea, following it through Germany, France and Liechtenstein, to its source in the icy Alps. He explores the impact that the Rhine has had on European culture and history and finds out how influences have flowed along and across the river, shaping the people who live alongside it.

**A Brief History of European Christmas Markets**, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 2022

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-brief-history-of-christmas-markets-180981308/>

<https://fiveminutehistory.com/a-brief-history-of-christmas-markets/>

**Rick Steves' European Christmas**

This small book is a most enjoyable read. It explores the rich and fascinating mix of traditions – Christian, pagan, musical, and edible – that capture the spirit of the season all along the Rhine.

**All Along the Rhine**, Kay Shaw Nelson

Each chapter covers not only the culinary history and food traditions but is also rich in its cultural information of the entire Rhine region. The book is filled with recipes to try!

**The Rhine, an Eco-biography, 1815-2000**, Marc Cioc, 2002

The Rhine River, Europe's most important commercial waterway, channels the flow of trade among Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Mark Cioc focuses on the river from the moment when the Congress of Vienna established a multinational commission charged with making the river more efficient for purposes of trade and commerce in 1815. He examines the engineering and administrative decisions of the next century and a half that resulted in rapid industrial growth as well as profound environmental degradation and highlights the partially successful restoration efforts undertaken from the 1970s to the present.

**Sing A New Song, The Psalms in Medieval Art and Life**, edited by Roger S. Wieck, 2025

“Exhibition presented at the Morgan Library in New York City, September 12, 2026 – January 4, 2026. Life, liturgy and art in the Middle Ages and Renaissance were suffused by psalms. The Psalter, in the

thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, was the first genre of book to find its way into lay hands since antiquity.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWtflCcGWjM>

### **The Gothic Enterprise, Robert A. Scott**

This study of the historical creation of the medieval cathedral in Europe provides an engaging read into the how and why, for a three-hundred-year period, Europeans created these incredible monuments.

### **The Pillars of the Earth, Ken Follett**

This acclaimed 1989 historical fiction novel from 12th-century England, focuses on the decades-long construction of a Gothic cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge amidst political turmoil, war, and power struggles.

### **Gothic Architecture**

<https://smarthistory.org/gothic-architecture-an-introduction/>

### **What made art valuable, in the Middle Ages and Renaissance vs. now**

<https://smarthistory.org/what-made-art-valuable-then-and-now/?sidebar=europe-1000-1400>

### **Introduction to Late Gothic Art**

<https://smarthistory.org/introduction-to-late-gothic-art/?sidebar=europe-1000-1400>

### **Carolingian art and the classical revival; Charlemagne’s Palace Chapel at Aachen**

<https://smarthistory.org/palatine-chapel-aachen/>

### **Ottonian art following Charlemagne**

<https://smarthistory.org/ottonian-art-an-introduction/>

### **Cologne Cathedral**

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/292/>

### **Gerhard Richter, *Cathedral Window*, 2007, Cologne Cathedral**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIKGNf3NTNc>

### **Gero Crucifix, Cologne Cathedral**

<https://aleteia.org/2020/03/07/the-oldest-surviving-monumental-sculpture-of-the-crucifixion-is-in-cologne/>

### **History of Heidelberg University**

<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/university/history>

### **Strasbourg – France’s oldest Christmas Market**

<https://www.christmas.alsace/strasbourg-christmas-market/>

### **Strasbourg – the bicultural crossroads of Europe**

<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/read/articles/strasbourg-france-bicultural-crossroads-of-europe>

**Crossing the Rhine at Remagen, National World War II Museum article**

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/crossing-rhine-remagen>

**8 German Classical Composers to Know**

<https://coloradosymphony.org/8-german-classical-composers-to-know/>

**Medieval Manuscripts**

<https://smarthistory.org/making-manuscripts/>

<https://smarthistory.org/listening-to-the-medieval-book/>

**Christian Science in Germany, Frances Thurber Seal**

Frances Thurber Seal's book on her years in Germany, is titled, ***Christian Science in Germany***. Seal was sent by her Christian Science teacher, Laura Lathrop CSD. There had been a request that a Christian Science "worker be sent to introduce Christian Science and establish it there."

<https://store.longyear.org/product/BOOK-400-104/christian-science-in-germany-by-frances-thurber-seal>

**A Pioneer Abroad: Frances Thurber Seal**

Excerpts from the 83-page autobiographical book, *Christian Science in Germany*, written by [Frances Thurber Seal](#). It provides a brief history of the activities of Mrs. Seal, who was one of the pioneer workers in Germany.

<https://store.longyear.org/product/BOOK-400-104/christian-science-in-germany-by-frances-thurber-seal>

**Christian Science in East Germany: The Church that Came in from the Cold, Gregory Sanford**

<https://store.longyear.org/product/BOOK-300-104/christian-science-in-east-germany-the-church-that-came-in-from-the-cold-by-gregory-sanford>

**Book Talk: Christian Science in East Germany**

Book talk by former Principia College Professor Gregory Sanford: When Christian Science went underground in communist East Germany.

<https://www.longyear.org/learn/videos/christian-science-in-east-germany/>