
Subject: The Livingstone Online Digital Collection

From: Adrian S. Wisnicki

To:

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 8:18 PM

Hi everyone,

I hope this email finds you well. It is my great pleasure, at last, to introduce you to the new Livingstone Online digital collection:

<http://livingstoneonline.org/islandora/search>

It is *not* an exaggeration to say that this is twelve years in the making and represents the culmination of a process that began when Chris Lawrence and Janet Browne launched the project in 2004, continued through the years that their team was actively developing the first incarnation of the site, and finally led to LEAP, during which -- over the last three years -- we have redeveloped and considerably expanded the Livingstone Online site and the core digital collection (images, transcriptions, and metadata).

So the release of the digital collection (one of the largest collections of its kind on the internet) is a huge accomplishment for all of us -- 8000 images, 3000 metadata records, 500 transcriptions released *now* plus 3000 more images and two hundred more transcriptions to come out over the next year. Moreover, as many of you know, taking the final steps to realize this required a major effort in the face of considerable challenges.

And it's not just about the formidable scope of the collection. Rather the way that our site now forests direct (digital) encounter with the objects in our collection is also important element and is itself the end result of an intense process of research, site design, and development. As you'll discover, users can sort our digital collection in complex and rapid ways, view images and transcriptions through our (stunning) new manuscript viewer, or download everything onto their own computers thanks to our archival packets. In addition, the catalogue and viewer (and soon the rest of the site too) are fully mobile-enabled and can be accessed on devices large and small, thereby taking a key step towards our emerging goal of bringing the site to audiences in Africa.

So thank you to all of you for contributing the project and for sticking by us through this long process. It's made all the difference. Let me also extend a special acknowledgement this time around to our programmer Nigel Banks and our TEI guru James Cummings for working intensely (and patiently) with me over the last few months to make this release possible.

There is no other team like the Livingstone Online team. Please take a moment to celebrate and to enjoy.

Adrian

P.S. Please do keep in mind that no digital project is ever really "done." In this case, the catalogue and viewer are fresh out of the box. Despite significant QC, I've no doubt that some bugs remain in the system and some things still need to be enhanced (for instance, to view the catalogue in the full record

option on desktop computers you need to use the right and left arrows for now), so please let me know about any issues you find. Good feedback will make this even better.