

Unil

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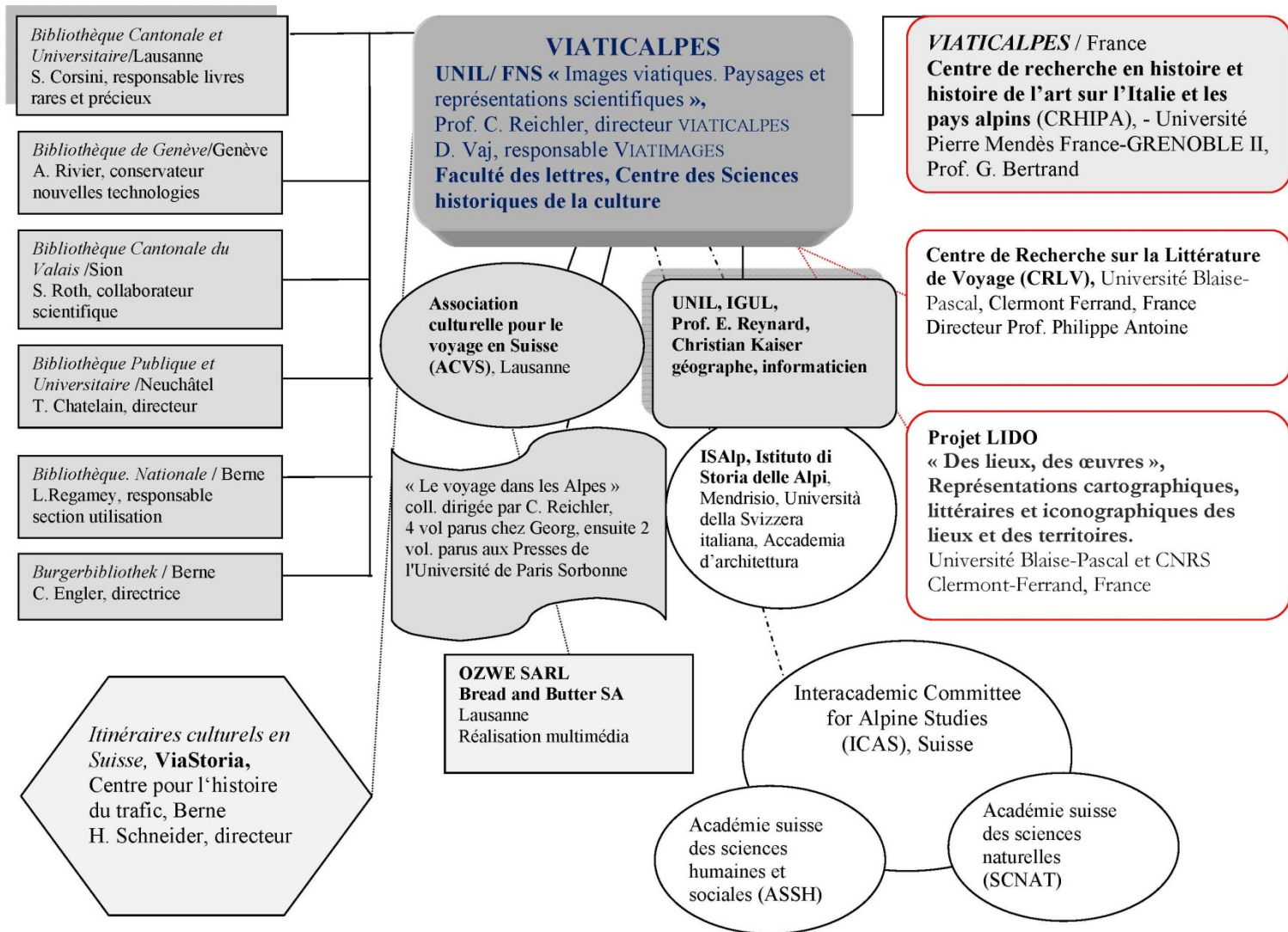
Daniela Vaj

Numériser un patrimoine d'exception : VIATIMAGES, une bibliothèque virtuelle d'illustrations de voyages anciens



THE DATABASE **VIATIMAGES** WAS CREATED BY **VIATICALPES** A PROJECT THAT WAS PART OF A LARGER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

- The program aimed at reviewing a targeted set of illustrations of rare travelers' books across different geographical areas.
- These illustrations are associated with texts and with extra information allowing us to elucidate the context of their production and usage.
- The **VIATICALPES** project since 2003 concentrated his research on the Alpine region and produced a new database, **VIATIMAGES**, to treat and study the digitalized documents of travel.

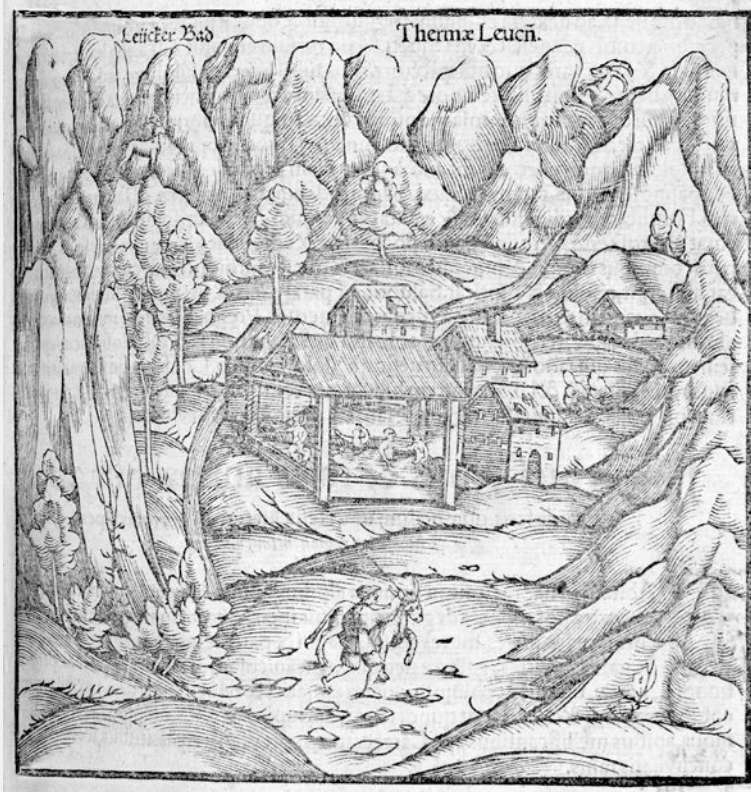


SINCE 2009 THE IMAGES AND TEXTS IN VIATIMAGES ARE AVAILABLE VIA INTERNET TO ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS AND ALL KIND OF PUBLIC



« Le Pont du Diable est ainsi appelé à cause de sa construction si extraordinaire, qu'elle paroît au-dessus des forces humaines. C'est une seule arche fort large, jetée d'une montagne à l'autre, et qui laisse la Russe [Reuss] à une profondeur immense, se précipitant à travers les rochers ; le vulgaire n'a donné à ce pont antique le nom de Pont du Diable, que parce qu'il ne pouvoit concevoir comment on avoit pu le bâtir dans cet endroit inaccessible. »

INVENTORY : ILLUSTRATED TRAVEL BOOKS ABOUT THE ALPS (1544-1860)



« **Bains de Loèche** », in S. Münster,
Cosmographia, Bâle, 1544



Bisson frères, « **Col du Géant** », in *Le mont Blanc et ses glaciers. Souvenir du voyage de LL. MM. l'empereur et l'impératrice*, par MM. Bisson frères photographes de Sa Majesté l'empereur, Paris, 1860

INVENTORY REALISED IN 2004-2005

FIRST ESTIMATION OF THE NUMBER OF IMAGES TO BE DIGITALIZED FOR THE SWISS ALPS



Period	Selected titles	Copies examined	Number of images counted	Estimated number of images for the total titles
1544-1699	57	13	269	1179
1700-1799	178	69	939	2422
1800-1860	565	106	1295	6903
s.d.	3	1	9	27
1544-1860	803	189	2512	10531

TRAVEL IMAGES, LANDSCAPE AND SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATIONS. IMAGES OF THE ALPS IN TRAVEL NARRATIVES (1540-1860)

*Swiss National Science Foundation project
April 2007 – March 2010 and February 2011- August 2013*

Estimated number of images to digitalize and analyze (1544-1860)

Period	Number of titles for the period	Nb books selected	Nb images in the 100 books selected
1544-1860	803	100	3000

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Swiss Alps (Jura included), but also Higher Savoy (Arve Valley) and the bordering territories to the South (Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Lombardy)
- Books of scientific importance
- Books of artistic importance
- Books having enjoyed a certain popularity

Further images available

- Patrimonial collections of photography, engraving and postcards

COLLABORATION OF SWISS LIBRARIES

Six patrimonial libraries signed a convention with VIATICALPES:

- BURGERBIBLIOTHEQUE BERNE
- BIBLIOTHÈQUE CANTONALE ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE LAUSANNE
- BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE GENÈVE
- BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE SUISSE
- BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE NEUCHÂTEL
- MEDIATHÈQUE VALAIS

SWISS LIBRARIES CONTRIBUTION

They digitalize the illustrations

They may digitalize the books (TIFF or PDF) too. The books are conserved by library, (online access and repository is chosen by each library according to her institutional policy)

Association between illustrations in VIATIMAGES and digitalized copy of the book are made by hypertext links

Each library made available to VIATICALPES the illustrations and the books digitalized

Segments of texts describing illustrations (PDF format + OCR) for online access are extracted by VIATIMAGES indexers

DIGITALIZATION OF ILLUSTRATIONS, ACCESS AND RIGHTS

The images (TIFF high resolution) are conserved by library

The images (JPG medium resolution) are made available in VIATIMAGES (online access only for private use)

All illustrations are copyright free, but for others uses than private, it is necessary to get use permissions from library

In these cases, each library provides TIFF high resolution images according to her institutional policy

VIATIMAGES DATABASE

Programming language for the interface : PHP

Database: MySQL

Spatial extension of MySQL for the Thesaurus

Other technologies : Ajax, JavaScript, KML, etc.

Server: Linux (UNIL)

Number of tables : 67

Metadata standards set : Dublin core

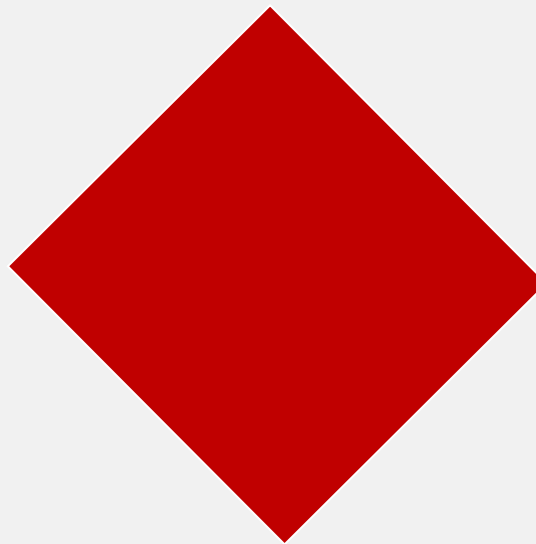
Research interface, free access: WEB

INDEXING THE CONTENT FACILITATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Set of metadata : 4 access points to the images

INDEXATION
of the images under a controlled vocabulary
and a geographic thesaurus

Free DESCRIPTION
(creator of index)
and CAPTIONS
(authors)



CONTEXT
text of the author
describing the image
(PDF-OCR)

GEO-LOCALIZATION : spatial query of images

KNOWLEDGE BASE : TEXTS AND OTHERS INFORMATIONS

- Bibliographic data on the books, links to records of the copies available in online catalogues (RERO, HELVETICAT etc.)
- Links to digitalized copies available online (RERODOC, GOOGLE BOOKS, GALLICA, etc.)
- Shorts bio-bibliographic data on authors, illustrators, editors and printers and hypertext links to online biographies in scientific dictionaries

KNOWLEDGE BASE : IMAGES

- In-depth formal indexing and description of every image
- Introduction of the text segments describing the image in the original book
- Links to other images et texts directly related to the image studied

MULTILINGUAL INDEXATION OF IMAGES

- Controlled lists of selected terms such as **genres**, **technical criteria**, **types of document**, etc. in 4 languages (French, German, Italian, English)
- Controlled list of 33 **thematic domains** in 4 languages (French, German, Italian, English)
- Controlled list of 120 **keywords** to whom are associated almost 300 **synonyms** in 4 languages (French, German, Italian, English)
- Authority open list for **personal names** (authors, painters, editors, etc.)
- **Geographic thesaurus** in 5 languages (French, German, Italian, Romansh and English)

GEO INDEXING AND LOCALIZATION

A. In-depth **geographic indexing** for every image using the **geographic thesaurus** home made by VIATIMAGES, differentiating 27 geographic and political classes

B. **Geo-localization** of the images on an interactive map (at the moment through Google Map and Google Earth)

It allows 3D representation and exporting to Google Earth

Future integration of historic maps (partner project with Christian Kaiser at the Faculty of geo-sciences at University Lausanne)

VIATIMAGES : A KNOWLEDGE BASE INTERIMAGES AND INTERTEXTES MODULES

VIATIMAGES'll allow, inside and outside of the database, to associate the illustrations to other internal and external images and other external texts



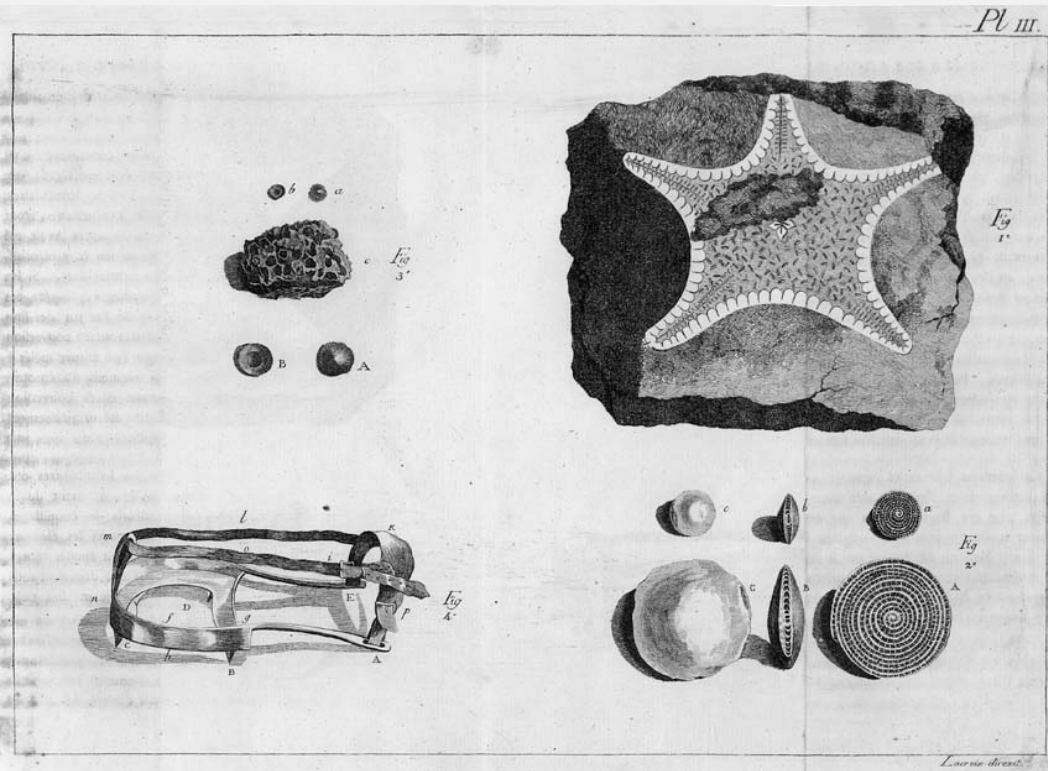
Interimages



Intertextes

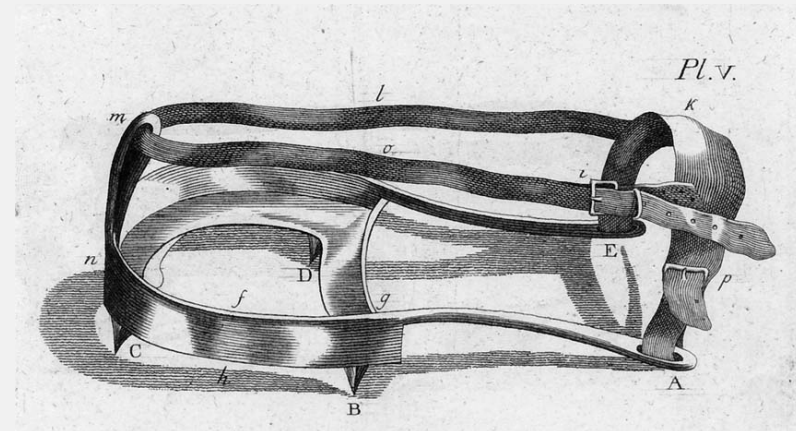
INSIDE INTERIMAGES

H. B. de Saussure, *Voyages dans les Alpes, 1779-1796, Vol I, pl. III*



Viatimages

G. Ebel, *Instructions pour un voyageur... 1795, pl. IV*



Viatimages

OUTSIDE INTERIMAGES

H. B. de Saussure, *Voyages dans les Alpes, 1779-1796*, Vol. I, vignette, [Guide de Chamonix, Pierre Simond], 1779



Viatimages



1. Bacler D'Albe,
« Jacques Balma dit Mont Blanc », 1787,
© Musée Alpin de
Chamonix



2. Henri l'Eveque,
« Jacques Balma dit Mont
Blanc », 1788,
© Collection Payot,
Annecy

VIATICALPES GOAL

DIGITALIZE FOR STUDYING AND ENHANCING THIS CULTURAL HERITAGE

VIATIMAGES is now extensively used in academic research, teaching at all level, publishing, expositions and cultural tourism

Thanks to VIATIMAGES, the VIATICALPES team easier produce scientific studies, videos and new multimedia products (under de label VIATICALPES PRODUCTION) to enhance this cultural heritage that has been preserved by libraries





VIATIMAGES

A TOOL FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL TOURISME

<http://www.unil.ch/viatimages>

FURTHER INFORMATIONS:

<http://www.unil.ch/viaticAlpes>