

# Events that ponder a grim centennial

PARIS

Hundreds are planned in Europe and America to observe World War I

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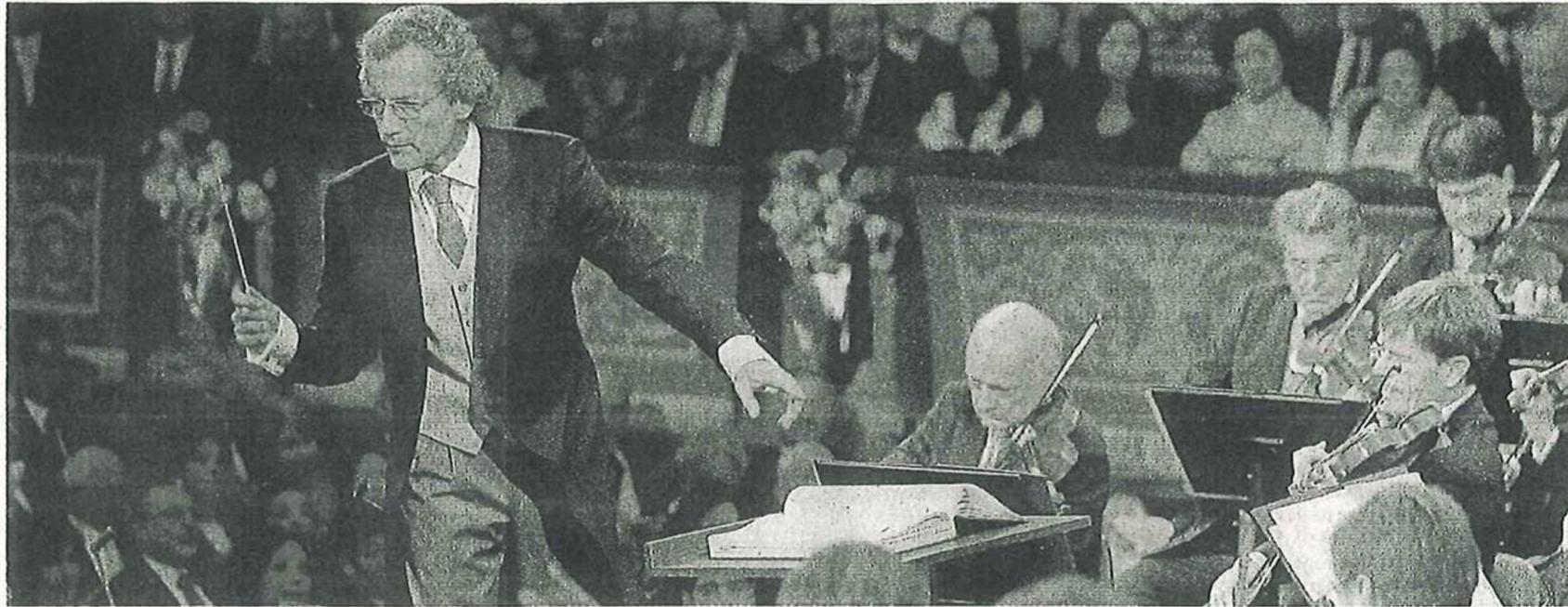
A century ago this month, the great powers of an earlier order began to unravel. World War I redrew the world map, ending the Hapsburg Empire and the Ottoman Empire and shifting the tectonic plates beneath Europe and the Middle East in ways that still resonate. From June 28, the date in 1914 when a young radical assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo, setting off a chain of events that started the war, to Nov. 11, the date that the Allies and Germany signed a first armistice ending the war in 1918, hundreds of cultural events are planned across Europe and the United States to observe the war's 100th anniversary. Here are a few of them.

**BELGIUM** The country in whose Flanders Fields tens of thousands of soldiers died, is organizing a series of events for visitors to explore the battlefields, including a commemoration in Brussels on Nov. 11.

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** On June 28 in Sarajevo, the Vienna Philharmonic will perform a memorial concert conducted by Franz Welser-Möst, with the choir of the National Theater of Sarajevo and featuring works bound to swell emotions. The program includes Haydn's "Kaiserquartett," written for the Austrian emperor, Schubert's Symphony No. 7 (known as his "Unfinished Symphony"), Brahms's "Schicksalslied" ("Song of Destiny"), and Three Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 6, by Alban Berg, written on the eve of the war. On June 27, the city will also screen "The Bridges of Sarajevo," 13 short films about the city and its past by European directors including Jean-Luc Godard.

**BRITAIN** Far from triumphalism, the ghost of Virginia Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway," with its war-ravaged protagonist, seems to loom over Britain's World War I commemorations. It has organized some of the most inventive sounding events, from performance art to tours of stately homes that were converted for use in the war effort.

From June 27 to 29, the LIFT festival of

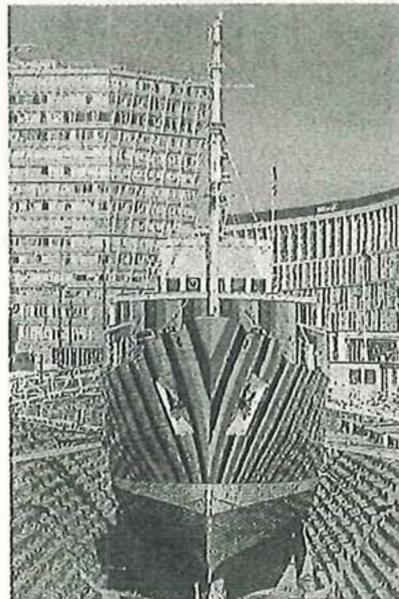


Clockwise from above: Cultural events include a memorial concert by the Vienna Philharmonic, conducted by Franz Welser-Möst; a screening of D.W. Griffith's "Hearts of the World"; an exhibition of 50 wartime posters; and an exhibition of "Dazzle Ships," inspired by the World War I ships that were camouflaged in bright colors to confuse U-boat captains.

visual and performing arts has asked 25 artists and companies from around the world to examine the impact and legacy of the war. Called "After a War," the events will be held in the main hall of the Battersea Arts Center in London. The British theater group Stan's Café will perform "Finger Trigger Bullet Gun," by Nenad Prokic, a Serbian playwright, that uses thousands of dominoes to demonstrate the impact of Franz Ferdinand's assassination. The program also includes a work in which the Lebanese artist Lucien Bourjeily asks participants to draw new maps of the Middle East.

In June, the Venezuelan-born artist Carlos Cruz-Diez and the German sculptor Tobias Rehberger will present "Dazzle Ships," in which they decorated ships inspired by the "dazzle" camouflage, designed to confuse U-boat captains. Mr. Rehberger's work will be on view in London's harbor and Mr. Cruz-Diez's in Liverpool's. The ships are part of 14-18 Now, a series of commemorations in conjunction with the Imperial War Museums that will run in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

In "Letter to an Unknown Soldier," Kate Pullinger and Neil Bartlett have organized what they call "a new war memorial made by thousands of people," asking the public to submit letters sharing their thoughts on the war.



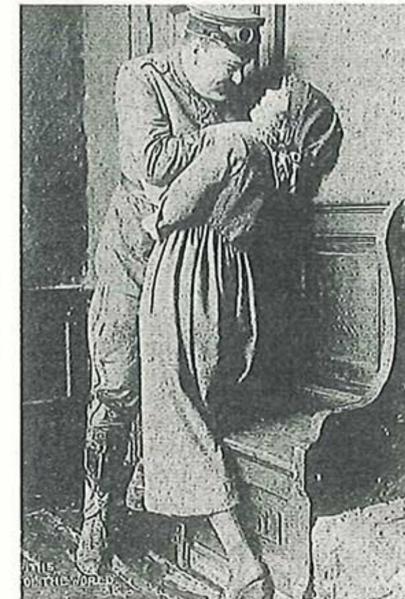
Starting on June 28, some of the letters will be published online, including those by prominent figures such as the writer and actor Stephen Fry.

On Aug. 4, the date that Britain declared war on Germany, Britain will hold "Lights Out," in which people are asked to turn off their lights from 10 to 11



p.m., "leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection." The event is inspired by the remark of Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

**CZECH REPUBLIC** The National Theat-



er of Prague is presenting "1914," a new production by the American stage director Robert Wilson, a series of vignettes inspired by the Czech novel "The Good Soldier Svejk," by Jaroslav Hasek, and Karl Kraus's satirical anti-war play "The Last Days of Mankind." The production kicks off a series organ-

ized by the Union of Theaters of Europe, with different productions to be held between now and 2018 in cities including Belgrade, Milan and Tel Aviv and Porto, Portugal.

**FRANCE** The Louvre Lens is showing "Disasters of War: 1800-2014," an exhibition that brings together 450 works by artists including Goya, Géricault, Picasso and Robert Capa that explore conflict since the Napoleonic Wars.

**GERMANY** Commemorations appear to tend toward the intellectual, the technological and the psychological. The Psychiatric History and Document Center in Düren, together with the Leopold-Hoesch-Museum and Paper Museum of Düren, are presenting "Modern War. Madhouse, 1900-1930," an exhibition about the war's impact on psychology and art. The Freilichtmuseum in Lindlar has organized "War and Light," an exhibition about innovations in electricity brought about by the war, on view through Dec. 14. The German Historical Museum in Berlin is presenting an overview of Germany during the war.

**UNITED STATES** Cultural institutions across the United States, which entered the war in April 1917, are also observing the centennial. From Aug. 4 through Sept. 21, the Museum of Modern Art is showing "The Great War: A Cinematic Legacy," with works that explore war, espionage and the home front before and after the war. The program begins with a newly restored print of "Hearts of the World," D.W. Griffith's 1918 silent film about the treatment of the French after the German invasion, and includes "The False Faces," a 1919 drama of U-boats in which Lon Chaney plays a German spy, and Alfred Hitchcock's "The Secret Agent" (1936), a spy thriller set in Switzerland.

In Boston, the Massachusetts Historical Society is presenting "Letters and Photographs from the Battle Country: Massachusetts Women in the First World War," which includes photographs, letters and diaries related to Margaret Hall and Eleanor Saltonstall, who were among hundreds of Massachusetts women who traveled to France as Red Cross volunteers. The exhibition runs until Jan. 24. The Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., is presenting "Your Country Calls!" a collection of 50 posters "created to shape and influence national identity, justify involvement, build unity across international borders and mobilize citizens into action for a collective effort to win the war."