



## Exhibition

# The Fabulous Voyage of Tinco Lycklama in the Orient (1865-1868)

From 8 July to 29 October 2017  
Musée de la Castre, Cannes, France

Cannes celebrates an exceptional 19<sup>th</sup> century voyage through the Middle East – and revisits its own history as a city and a leading tourist destination.



Portrait of the baron Lycklama à Nijeholt in oriental costume. Emile Vermet-Lecomte and Pierre Tétar Van Elven, c. 1869-1874  
Musée de la Castre, Cannes © C. Germain

This summer, the Musée de la Castre celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special exhibition dedicated to its founder and its unique collection of Near Eastern archaeology and Islamic art. In line with Cannes' touristic tradition, the exhibition is titled "*The Fabulous Voyage of Tinco Lycklama in the Orient (1865-1868)*" and highlights an exceptional 19<sup>th</sup> century travel story through Persia, Mesopotamia, Assyria and Palestine. The exhibition runs from 8 July to 29 October 2017.

### The Musée de la Castre: an exceptional collection

Founded in 1877, the Musée de la Castre is Cannes' oldest municipal museum. Perched above the old-town, in the medieval castle of the monks of Lérins, it commands a stunning view of the Croisette, the bay of Cannes and the surrounding coastline.

The museum houses an exceptional collection ranging from local 19<sup>th</sup> century art to ethnological artefacts gathered from around the world, as well as Persian art of the Qajar period and archaeological finds from the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. Its origin closely relates to the historical development of Cannes as a cosmopolitan city from the mid-1800s onward. The core of the collection was donated in 1877 by a prominent member of Cannes' international community: Tinco Lycklama à Nijeholt.

### The adventurous Tinco Lycklama

Tinco Lycklama à Nijeholt (1837-1900) was a young Dutch aristocrat who left his native province of Frisia in 1862 to study at the Ecole des Langues Orientales in Paris. In 1865, he embarked on a three-year voyage to explore, via Russia and the Caucasus, the remote pathways of Persia, Mesopotamia, Assyria, and Palestine. He learned the customs and history, met local potentates, collected art and "curiosities", and undertook some occasional archaeological excavations. Upon his return to Europe, in 1868, he wrote an account of his observations, which resulted in a 4-volume, 2,200 page publication. And he started his own museum.



### **From Beetsterzwaag to Cannes**

Initially, Tinco Lycklama set up his museum in his hometown, Beetsterzwaag. However, in 1872 he chose to settle in Cannes – and moved his entire museum with him. Lycklama became an outstanding figure of Cannes' social and intellectual circles in the early years of the *Belle Époque*. In 1877, in recognition of the hospitality he enjoyed from the citizens of Cannes and its international hosts, he decided to donate his collections to the city, thus effectively creating its municipal museum.

### **The exhibition: an appreciation of 19<sup>th</sup> century travel**

This summer, the City of Cannes will pay a formal tribute to one of its earliest benefactors by dedicating an exhibition to Tinco Lycklama. Centred on his fabulous voyage, it will also explore his Frisian roots, as well as the influences and sources that sparked his passion for the Orient and the discovery of ancient civilisations. Visitors to the exhibition will get a sense of what it was like to travel in the 1860s, through a region where very few tourists had ventured before. The exhibition will also highlight the burgeoning of Cannes from town to city during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The numerous objects and works of art showcased in the exhibition, all connected to Lycklama's personal experience and the ideas and events that shaped his age, invite the public on a voyage of discovery across time and space.

### **Celebrating Cannes' heritage**

Cannes is a leading destination in France for tourism and conventions. Travel, openness and an international outlook are all engrained in the city's DNA.

*"We are a modern city and we attract people from all over the world, for the quality of services, for our beaches and landmarks, for our Film Festival, for shopping – for a broad variety of reasons,"* says David Lisnard, Mayor of Cannes. *"Our success as a destination goes back a long way, and our traditions are completely intertwined with the history of the city and of its prominent guests – such as Tinco Lycklama. This special summer exhibition allows us to tell our story to the visitors and celebrate our heritage."*

### **International cooperation**

The Tinco Lycklama Foundation, created in 2016 in Amsterdam, aims to study the life and work of Tinco Lycklama and to initiate historical, cultural and educational projects. The Foundation is the official partner of the City of Cannes in the set-up of the summer 2017 exhibition. It will also contribute to future projects, such as a possible collaboration between Cannes and the Frisian city of Leeuwarden, designated as European Capital of Culture for 2018.

### **For more information**

+33 (0)4 89 82 26 26 - [www.cannes.com](http://www.cannes.com)

Tinco Lycklama Foundation - [www.tincolycklama.org](http://www.tincolycklama.org)

### **Exhibition venue**

Musée de la Castre, Le Suquet, Cannes, France.

### **Admission and opening times**

Full price: 6 € / half price: 3 € (adults under 25, groups of 10 adults or more, Cannes Pass Culture)

Free for children under 18 and students under 26

July and August: every day, 10.00 to 19.00

September: Tuesday to Sunday (closed on Monday), 10.00 to 13.00 / 14.00 to 18.00

October: Tuesday to Sunday (closed on Monday), 10.00 to 13.00 / 14.00 to 17.00