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Connected Worlds of Bruges

(900-1550)

Edited by Peter Frankopan

Edited by Jan Dumolyn

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- Published for the Launch of BRUSK, Bruges' Landmark New Museum: Released on the occasion of the grand opening of BRUSK in May 2026, this book is a must-have for anyone interested in the museum's vision of connecting the local with the global: https://www.museabrugge.be/en/visit-our-museums/brusk
- A Fresh, Global Perspective on Bruges: Goes beyond the typical image of Bruges as a medieval jewel, revealing its historical role as a dynamic player in global trade, culture, and politics
- Exceptional Visuals and Object Photography: Features stunning full-color images of rare and remarkable objects, many published for the first time, that illustrate Bruges' worldwide connections
- Curated by Experts, Accessible to All: Written by leading historians and curators, the book balances scholarly depth with engaging storytelling, making it suitable for both specialists and general readers

"Bruges is one of the world's most interesting cities. This book explains how its rich history has been shaped by the movement of people, goods and ideas across continents, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean and far beyond."

—Peter Frankopan

The story of Bruges reaches far beyond its city walls. From the Middle Ages, it was a place where worlds met: a hub for merchants linking northern Europe to distant maritime routes; a waypoint on the pilgrimages and Crusades that led to the Holy Land; a courtly focus for Europe's dynastic circles; and a vibrant cultural and artistic centre where masters such as Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling and Gerard David maintained their workshops.

Drawing on remarkable artworks and objects from major collections, this volume explores how Bruges became one of the great crossroads of the medieval and early modern world. Peter Frankopan, Jan Dumolyn and other leading scholars reveal how the city was shaped by movement, exchange and imagination within the bigger picture of a world bound by trade, faith, power and art.

Published to mark the festive opening of the new art hall BRUSK in Bruges and its opening exhibition *Bigger Picture – Connected World of Bruges 900–1550*, Belgium, from 8 May until 6 September 2026.

Peter Frankopan is Professor of Global History at Oxford University, where he is Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford. He is also UNESCO Professor of Silk Roads Studies and a Bye-Fellow at King's College, Cambridge. He works on the history and politics of the Mediterranean, Russia, the Middle East, Persia/Iran, Central Asia, China and beyond - as well as on the histories of climate, natural resources and connectivities.

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