**Text of the introduction video to the Orient Express History app**

My name is Arjan den Boer, the creator of this app on the history of the Orient-Express. I am a writer about railway history and design and I publish websites and apps about that.

I got intrigued by the Orient Express dining car in the Dutch Railway Museum at Utrecht, and when I immersed myself in its history, it turned out to be a very broad subject that goes far beyond just trains.

What fascinates me about the Orient-Express is, on the one hand, the romantic image of intrigue and luxury aboard, and the oriental scenes, of course. And on the other hand, the Orient Express made the world smaller and enabled contact between East and West through modern means of transport. What I also find interesting is the link with European history, as the Orient Express had to adapt to the changing borders over and over again.

For the making of this app I traveled the various routes of the Orient Express myself, with modern trains, to Milan and Budapest and Istanbul… I also started collecting original photographs, brochures and posters of the Orient-Express. The highlight of my collection is a poster from 1888, the very first Orient-Express poster.

And now there is this app, a kind of digital coffee table book — a very richly illustrated history book, with short texts, and also some interactive elements such as maps and panoramic images.

I created this app mainly for myself, to compile all the knowledge and the material I have collected, actually making a kind of product out of it. At the same time, I think it will appeal to people interested in the history of luxury travel, the whole atmosphere of grand hotels and stations — but also to design enthusiasts, because the app showcases many beautiful posters and brochures, and railway station architecture as well.

I hope people using this app will share my enthusiasm for the subject, and that the app will help them to see the link between the history of Europe and the Orient Express. I hope they will appreciate a fresh look that goes beyond the cliché images offered by film and television.