

## THE INVENTORIES OF THE BELGIAN ARTISTIC HERITAGE

When, at the end of the eighteenth century, inventories were made of works of art to be found in disused convents, this was done for a practical purpose and not in the interests of scholarship. And when the various church councils were obliged, under Article 55 of the Imperial Decree of 30th December 1808, to make an inventory of their possessions, it was in order to prevent loss or theft. The same applies to all subsequent inventories made by order of the bishops under this same decree.

During the period of union with Holland, a few of the provincial governments took measures for the preservation of objects of artistic or historical value which had so far been kept in churches, town halls, charitable institutions, or public offices. Local commissions were thus requested to make inventories of those works of art which were not to be moved, repaired or sold without the consent of the local authorities and, conversely, the latter were required to consult these commissions in such matters. A decree to this effect was issued in East-Flanders in 1823<sup>2</sup>, followed the next year by one in West-Flanders<sup>3</sup>. Very probably similar decrees were issued in other provinces as well. Of the inventories themselves the only one to have been published, as far as we know, was the one for West Flanders: seven inventories in Bruges, covering

a total of ten buildings, and others in Kortrijk and Veurne<sup>4</sup>.

The same concern for the artistic heritage of the provinces is reflected in the Royal Decree issued by William I on 16th August 1824, Article 5 of which extends to works of art kept in churches.

Subsequently the newly-established Kingdom of Belgium felt itself bound to continue the work of inventorying and extended its scope to include buildings as well as their contents. On 28th March 1834 the Minister of the Interior sent out a circular to the governors of the provinces instructing them to draw up lists of the most important buildings in their respective areas; this was a sequel to the setting up of Commission on Monuments (Royal Decree of 7th January 1835). On 6th April 1835 the Minister of the Interior sent out a new circular, this time on the subject of the most important of the paintings and statues housed in churches and public buildings. Of the inventories made that same year, seven are known to have been published for the province of Brabant; these cover the cities of Brussels, Louvain and Nivelles with their arrondissements and the city of Aarschot<sup>5</sup>.

In 1846 two further rather timid attempts were made; a short inventory compiled from the annual report of the Brabant provincial administration appeared on pages 696-704, 724-729, 792-799 and 848-856 of the journal *La Belgique Communale* for 1847.

During this same period the first issue of a new inventory for West Flanders was published in the Bruges journal *Annales de la Société d'Emulation pour l'Etude de l'Histoire et des Antiquités de la Flandre*, 8 (1846), pp. 179-246 (with footnotes on pages 247-257); it covered the cathedral of St. Saviour in Bruges; a

<sup>1</sup> We refer to the inventorization in Belgium: W. Krönig, Die Inventarisierung der Kunstdenkmäler in Belgien, in *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte*, 27 (1964), 272-278; L. Devlieghe, Beeld van het Kunstbezit (= *Kunstpatrimonium van West-Vlaanderen*, 1, 1965, 16-34 (especially about West-Flanders); A. De Nayer, Monumentenzorg. Antwerpen-Amsterdam, 1975, 43-53; M. De Waha, Problèmes de documentation — inventarisatie, in *Bruxelles, construire et reconstruire. Architecture et aménagement urbain*, 1780-1914. Brussels, 1979, 257-267.

<sup>2</sup> The commission of Ghent, installed as a result of the decree of 27th December 1823 is still in existence. See J. Casier, Anciennes vues de Gand, Album publié à l'occasion du centenaire de la Commission des Monuments et des Sites de la ville de Gand. Avec notice historique. Gent, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> King William I proposed the other provinces be urged to follow the example of East-Flanders and to take a similar decision. (C. Van Swigchem, *Afbraak of restauratie. Monumentenzorg in Nederland*, Bussum, 1966, 17-18).

<sup>4</sup> L. Devlieghe, Een Westvlaamse inventaris uit 1824, in *Bulletin van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Monumenten en Landschappen*, 16 (1965-1966), 199-269; 17 (1967-1968), 169-247.

<sup>5</sup> H. Van Liefveringhe, De inventarissen van de provincie Brabant uit 1835, in *Bulletin van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Monumenten en Landschappen*, 17 (1967-1968), 141-167.

further six issues published in the following year covered the city's parish churches<sup>6</sup>. All seven were subsequently included in the complete inventory for West Flanders published in bookform in 1852, no other separate publications having appeared in the meantime. The book, which was the work of 21 local commissions, began with an introduction (pp. 1-9), which was followed by chapters on the history of painting (pp. 10-114), sculpture (pp. 115-158), metal (pp. 159-170) and architecture (pp. 171-188) in West Flanders, all written by A. Couvez, who had been made responsible for revising the inventories. Next came the decree by the Council of the Province, a list of members of the commissions, and, finally, the inventories covering Bruges (pp. 203-485) and the other municipalities (pp. 487-661).

The making of this inventory had been the outcome of a decree adopted by the West Flanders Provincial Council on 9th July 1845 covering the protection and inventorying of works of art belonging to municipalities, church councils and public bodies — a decision obviously inspired by an earlier one of the West Flanders Deputed States dated 12th February 1824. Though this inventory is of an unequal value and though the buildings it covers are mentioned rather dispersedly, it remains very useful, especially for the municipalities destroyed during the First World War.

In 1860 the Royal Commission on Monuments was reorganized and subsequently, on 23rd February 1861, there was issued a Royal Decree on inventorying, Article I of which ran as follows:

«A general inventory of works of art and antiquity belonging to public establishments, the conservation of which is of importance for the history of art and for the archaeology of the country, shall be drawn up by the Royal Commission on Monuments and its corresponding members. The Royal Commission on Monuments shall draw up the plan for the inventory, which shall be submitted for approval to our Minister of the Interior». A few years later very little progress had been made, and a circular from the Ministry was sent out on 16th April 1887, in an attempt to instil new life into the enterprise. The provincial committees of the Royal Commission on Monuments made bold to try again. In 1898 a general meeting of the Commission and its committees was called — the first since 1868 — at which it emerged that good work was being accom-

plished in all quarters. On 15th February 1902 the Commission held a special meeting attended by representatives of the committees in order to discuss the progress achieved; the Province of Antwerp was found to be the farthest ahead, and the first issue of its inventory was published that same year. At the annual general meeting on 6th October 1902, J. Helbig made mention of Professor P. Clemens' *Die Kunstdenkmäler der Rheinprovinz*, which had been appearing since 1891<sup>7</sup>.

Meanwhile, in 1897, the Ghent Historical and Archaeological Society had begun to publish a truly remarkable piece of work, the *Inventaire Archéologique de Gand*.

In 1912, A. de Ceuleneer wrote an extensive report on the inventorying done abroad, with particular reference to Holland<sup>8</sup>, where that time Dr. Jan Kalf's inventory of the Baronie of Breda had just been published. By that time in Belgium itself three provincial committees were now publishing inventories, Antwerp having started to do so in 1902, Brabant in 1904 and East Flanders in 1911. These three separate series were considered by the then Minister, Mr. Poulet, to be no more than preparatory attempts, the Breda inventory being in his opinion the model which should be followed.

In 1914 there came a temporary halt pending further plans and publications.

During the First World War the German occupation authorities worked on a new type of inventory of works of art, mainly with a view to providing the German art scholarship with documentary records and comparative material which might also subsequently be of use to the Belgian authorities in charge of monuments. The idea was not to make an inventory on the German model but to collect a large body of photographs, measurements and bibliographical references; these were primarily to concern buildings, since the various Belgian inventories did not include descriptions of these or did so only inadequately.

The man in charge of this initiative was Professor P. Clemen, whom we have already mentioned as being responsible for *Die Kunstdenkmäler der Rheinprovinz*; a representative of his was appointed in each province, in addition to the art historians, photographers and draughtsmen employed on the work. The invento-

<sup>6</sup> Inventaire de la Commission provinciale chargée de rechercher les objets d'art. Cathédrale de Saint-Sauveur, in *Annales de la Société d'Emulation pour l'étude de l'histoire et des antiquités de la Flandre*, 8, (1846), 179-246 (+ explanatory note on pp. 247-257).  
Eglise de Notre Dame à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 1-32.  
Eglise de Saint-Jacques à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 71-104.  
Eglise de Saint-Gilles à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 167-182.  
Eglise de Sainte-Walburge à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 183-190.  
Eglise de la Madeleine à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 191-193.  
Eglise de Sainte-Anne à Bruges, *ibid.*, 9 (1847), 194-214.

<sup>7</sup> «C'est un ouvrage excellent et que je puis conseiller en toute confiance à tous ceux qui s'occupent de ces inventaires. Je crois qu'ils ne trouveront pas de meilleur modèle à suivre (*Bulletin des Commissions Royales d'Art et d'Archéologie*, 41 [1902], 292).

<sup>8</sup> As a result of a study journey to the Netherlands, A. De Ceuleneer made an extensive report about inventorization abroad, especially in the Netherlands: «L'inventaire des monuments d'histoire et d'art de la Hollande», in *Bulletin des Commissions Royales d'Art et d'Archéologie*, 51 (1912), 143-165.

rying started in the summer of 1917 and by the end of the war the larger part of the proposed programme had been completed. Some of the 10.000 negatives were unfortunately lost, but it was possible to assemble and process the remainder<sup>9</sup>. After the war a few of the people who had taken part in the work pursued it further and, under the patronage of Professor Clemen, a two volume work entitled *Belgische Kunstdenkmäler* was published in Munich in 1923.

While it is doubtless possible to obtain an accurate idea of the artistic heritage lost by our country during the First World War, many of the works destroyed had never been known to the general public for lack of any published records<sup>10</sup>. The enormous loss thus sustained may well have been one of the many reasons which prompted the Royal Commission, despite its rather discouraging experience before the war, to tackle the problem of inventorying once again. At the general meeting held on 19th December 1921, a long report presented by Professor Canon R. Maere was adopted; this reflected a desire to abandon the system of separate initiatives for the individual provinces in favour of a central publication on the same lines as in Germany, Austria and Holland. Professor Maere pointed out the importance of photographs and drawings, the value of a bibliographic repertory, and the need to work on a central guiding principle and to have competent personnel, as well as the imperative need for contacts with other countries. As a result of the adoption of this report a Joint Inventorying Committee was set up the following year, representing both the Royal Commission and the provincial committees. In 1924 it adopted a comprehensive set of rules entitled «Regulations governing the Compilation of Final Inventories on Monuments and Landscapes»<sup>11</sup>. So far no funds at all had been allocated by the State for the work of inventorying, and it was hoped to obtain these through a society «The Friends of the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes», founded in 1924<sup>12</sup>. The main problem was the absence of a proper Department regularly employing competent scholars and technical personnel.

Nevertheless the provincial committees of the Royal Commission continued their work. Antwerp and Lim-

burg went ahead with the series started earlier, while Hainaut had begun in its turn in 1923.

In the law on the preservation of monuments and landscapes passed on 7th August 1931, Article 17 once again mentioned the inventorying of property in the care of public bodies. By now the Minister for Arts and Sciences was officially responsible for instructing such bodies, as well as the Royal Commission itself, to undertake an inventory<sup>13</sup>.

During World War II, the photography department of the Royal Museums of Arts and Sciences in Brussels took photographs of a large part of our publicly-owned artistic heritage. On 1st January 1946, the photography department and laboratories were detached from the Royal Museums and became a separate department, as the Central Iconographic Archives of the National Art and Central Laboratory of Belgian Museums (ACL). In 1957 the name was changed to that of Royal Institute for the Art Heritage. The main task of the iconographic department of this Institute is officially «to compile and keep up to date a complete photographic reference inventory of our national works of art» (Royal Decree of 24th June 1948); the idea is to publish a concise inventory on each canton as and when each complete set of photographs has been taken. In 1948 such inventories were published for the cantons of Aalst and Chimay, in 1950 for that of Ath and in 1965 for that of Bruges. The preparatory exploration in these cantons had been done by Dr. A. Janssens de Bisthoven, then head of the Iconographic Archives.

In 1952, under the auspices of the Ministers of Education and of Interior, work began on a register of cultural property; the plan for the whole work was completed by the Secretariat in 1953, and the work itself was published in its final form in 1955, in a mimeographed edition. Its principal purpose is to provide a duly documented basis for the protection of works of art in wartime.

In its Bulletins for 1959 and 1960, the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes — almost a century after the original Royal Decree instructing it to concern itself with the matter — published concise inventories for the arrondissements of Antwerp, Tongeren and Liège. In 1961 similar inventories based on the three existent ones for Brabant appeared in a mimeographed edition.

<sup>9</sup> At the end of the years twenty the negatives and the drawings were transferred to Belgium. The negatives are now kept in the Royal Institute for the Art Heritage; we have no news about what happened to the drawings.

<sup>10</sup> Cfr L. Devlieghe, *Het kunstpatrimonium in het frontgebied*, in the catalogue *Stille getuigen 1914-1918*, Bruges, 1964, 55-73.

<sup>11</sup> Concerning the Maere report and the related events we refer to the *Bulletin des Commissions Royales d'Art et d'Archéologie*, 60 (1921), 315-326; 61 (1922), 300-302, 62 (1923), 328-332, 364-371; 63 (1924), 256-257.

<sup>12</sup> *Bulletin des Commissions Royales d'Art et d'Archéologie*, 63 (1924), 195-208.

<sup>13</sup> «Art. 17. The Minister for Arts and Sciences orders the drawing up of inventories of goods and chattels belonging to the State, the Provinces, the Municipalities and the Public Instances in the case where the preservation from artistic point of view are of national importance. The work is being done by the concerned public authorities or instances, or by the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes, in which case they are sent by registered post to the concerned authorities. This definition is not applied to musea and libraries belonging to the State and the provinces».

It did not look at that time as though the central authorities were prepared to set up an official department for the recording of monuments, since they generally resorted to the services of voluntary or temporary assistants, and the impression was that no genuine scientifically compiled inventory would ever materialize. The first pioneering effort to remedy the situation — and one which adequately met its objectives — came from the provincial authorities of East Flanders: in 1952 Dr. E. Dhanens was appointed to make an inventory for that province, and by 1953 there had been published «Temse», the first scientifically designed inventory comparable with similar works abroad.

Other provinces followed the example of East Flanders and in their turn appointed art historians to carry out the work; this happened in 1960 in West Flanders (Dr. L. Devlieghe), in 1963 in Antwerp (H. Leemans) and in 1968 in Limburg (G. De Dijn). Each of these three inventories had its own particular method and style. In West Flanders there was an innovation in the form of drawings of objects and of numerous architectural details, and the idea has since been adopted elsewhere.

We have already mentioned the four inventories published by the Royal Institute for the Artistic Heritage. In 1967 the Ministers of French and Netherlandish Culture instructed the Institute to produce a work to be entitled «Photographic Archives of the Furniture in Belgian Places of Worship», and this was begun in 1972. It consists in a series of inventories covering all churches with their movable property, and giving the reference numbers of the corresponding negatives and the year in which the photographing was done. There are in all 222 jurisdictional cantons, and by 31st December 1979 complete or partial inventories had been published for 133 of them.

Though we consider these to be useful as working implements, they have not received the attention they deserve owing to the specific form adopted (scanty notes and no drawings or photographs). They are published under the authority of R. Van de Walle, Head of the Department of Photographic Archives.

The Ministries of Netherlandish and French Culture had meanwhile realized that more could and should be done. In 1971 the first part of a new series (*Bouwen door de eeuwen heen. Inventaris van het cultuurbezit in Vlaanderen*) appeared: this was a book on the arrondissement of Louvain, produced under the responsibility of Professor Dr. R.M. Lemaire. A translation of this was published as Part 1 of a new series in French entitled: *Le Patrimoine Monumental de Belgique*, which appeared at about the same time.

On 1st June 1972, a Royal Decree was issued institu-

ting an official monuments and landscapes State Service for the Netherlandish speaking part of the country. One of the tasks of this new government body (Article 3, 2° and 4°) was stated to be the making and publishing of inventories by which was meant scientifically accurate descriptions of buildings with the works of art they contain. From then onwards inventorying was tackled systematically and the two abovementioned series dating from 1971 confined themselves from the parts 2n and 2 onwards to their respective linguistic areas.

The general editorship of the Netherlandish language series was taken over from the Part 3n onwards by Mrs. S. Van Aerschot; that of the French series was assumed by Mr. C. Pirlot from Part 2 to Part 6, being taken over by Mr. J. Remiche from Part 7 onwards.

We would add that in 1979 an «emergency rescue» inventory of the architectural works of Brussels was published in a similar edition.

The essential objective of the two series is the inventorying of architecture; of the movables contained in the buildings only the most important are mentioned, and them only briefly. Far more attention is now being paid to houses and farmsteads than to the better-known larger buildings.

The inventories are designed to serve three purposes: to provide a basis for the protection of monuments, to serve as guides to the architectural heritage and to form a basis on which subsequent more highly specialized inventories may be made. It is to be noted that here too, as in the case of the inventories made for the separate provinces, the whole approach has shown considerable evolution over a period of ten years: there has been, for instance, inclusion of contemporary buildings and industrial architecture and it has been found necessary to add historical and geographical notes on municipalities and on individual streets. From issue N° 3 (Antwerp) in 1976 onwards, each issue has had appended to it a complete set of photographs in miniature. In the French series this began with issue N° 7 (Marche-en-Famenne) in 1979.

These publications have appeared in rapid succession and there is no doubt that they have served to increase familiarity with many buildings, large and small; we shall thus, in a few years' time, possess a uniform series of inventories for the whole country. We feel that, while being more complete and better illustrated, they may perfectly well be compared with such foreign publications as *Kunstreisboek voor Nederland*, Pevsner's *The Buildings of England* and G. Dehio's *Handbuch der Deutschen Kunstdenkmäler*.

Luc DEVLIEGHER

## APPENDIX

In this appendix a survey is being given of the inventories of Belgium. Systematic inventories (epitaphs, mills etc...), catalogues of exhibitions and completely separate inventories of one building or another were not included. The recent inventories, published by the State are listed at the end.

### PROVINCE OF ANTWERP

E. Neeffs, *Inventaire historique des tableaux et des sculptures se trouvant dans les édifices religieux et civils et dans les rues de Malines*. Leuven, 1869, 314 p.  
Tableaux, sculptures et objets d'art conservés dans les édifices religieux et civils de Malines, par E. Neeffs. Deuxième édition, revue, corrigée et augmentée par H. Coninckx. Mechelen, 1891, 322 p.

*Inventaire des objets d'art conservés dans les établissements publics de la province d'Anvers*.

Tome 1. Antwerpen, 1902, 100 p., ill.

Also published in Bulletin V of the Provincial Committee.

*Inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen in de openbare gestichten bewaard*.

Tome 2-9. Antwerpen, 1906-1926, 1571 p., ill.

Tomes 1-9 are mainly the work of F. Donnet.

Tome 2-9 is bilingual.

Tome 10. G. Van Doorselaer, L. Stroobant, *Ste Kathelijnekerk te Mechelen*. Turnhout, 1940, 47 p., ill.

Tome 11. G. van Doorselaer, L. Stroobant, *Kerk van de HH. Jan-Baptist en Jan-Evangelist te Mechelen*. Turnhout, 1940, 39 p., ill.

Tome 12. G. van Doorselaer, L. Stroobant, *Kerk van de HH. Petrus en Paulus te Mechelen*. Turnhout, 1940, 43 p., ill.

All the tomes of this inventory have been published by the Provincial Committee of the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes.

[A. Van Looverbosch-Stoelen], *Bondige inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen van het arrondissement Antwerpen*, in *Bulletin van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Monumenten en Landschappen*, 10 (1959), 45-145, ill.

Edited by the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes.

*Inventaris van het kunstpatrimonium van de Provincie Antwerpen*.

1. H. Leemans, *De Sint-Gummaruskerk te Lier*. Antwerpen-Utrecht, 1972, 534 p., ill.

Edited on the instruction of the Provincial authorities.

### PROVINCE OF BRABANT

*Inventaire des objets d'art existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement de Bruxelles*, Brussels, 1904 + Fascicule complémentaire. Brussels, 1910, 216 p., ill.

*Inventaire des objets d'art existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement de Louvain*, Brussels, 1906, 204 p., ill.

*Inventaire des objets d'art existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement de Nivelles*, Brussels, 1912, 215 p., ill.

These three parts were published by the Provincial Committee of the Royal Commission on Monuments.

J. de Borchgrave d'Altena, *Notes pour servir à l'inventaire des Œuvres d'Art du Brabant*. Arrondissement de Louvain, in *Annales de la Société Royale d'Archéologie de Bruxelles*, 43 (1939-1940), 121-389; 44 (1939-1940), 5-40, ill.

A revised edition was published in 1941 (310 pages).

J. de Borchgrave d'Altena, *Notes pour servir à l'inventaire des Œuvres d'Art du Brabant*. Arrondissement de Bruxelles, in *Annales de la Société Royale d'Archéologie de Bruxelles*, 47 (1944-1946), VII-XXIX, 1-233, ill.

A revised edition was published in 1947 (262 pages).

J. de Borchgrave d'Altena, *Notes pour servir à l'inventaire des Œuvres d'Art du Brabant*. Arrondissement de Nivelles, in *Bulletin de la Commission Royale des Monuments et des Sites*, 7 (1956), 123-325; 11 (1960), 7-160, ill.

*Inventaire sommaire des objets d'art de l'Arrondissement de Bruxelles*.

*Bondige inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen van het Arrondissement Brussel*.

Brussel, 1961, 215 p., stencil.

*Bondige inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen van het Arrondissement Leuven*. Brussels, 1961, 218 p., stencil.

*Inventaire sommaire des objets d'art de l'Arrondissement de Nivelles*. Brussels, 1961, 191 p., stencil.

These three parts were published by the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes. They belong to the same series as the concise printed inventories of the arrondissements Antwerp, Tongeren and Liège.

### PROVINCE OF EAST-FLANDERS

*Inventaire archéologique de Gand*. Catalogue descriptif et illustré des monuments, œuvres d'art et documents antérieurs à 1830, publié par la Société d'histoire et d'archéologie de Gand.

Première série (fascicules I-XX). Gent, 1897-1901, 200 p., ill.

Deuxième série (fascicules XXI-XL). Gent, 1901-1906, 200 p. ill.

Troisième série (fascicules XLI-LVII). Gent, 1907-1915, 170 p., ill.

*Oudheidkundige inventaris van Oost-Vlaanderen*.

Afl. 1-11. Gent, 1911-1915, 238 p., ill.

These bi-lingual issues were published by the Provincial Committee of the Royal Commission on Monuments.

Aanwijzende fotografische inventaris van het Belgisch patrimonium van Kunst en Geschiedenis.

[E. Dhanens], Canton Aalst. Brussels, 1948, 25 p., ill.

Published by A.C.L. (Central Iconographic Archives for National Art and Central Laboratory of the Belgian Musea) in Brussels.

Inventaris van het kunstpatrimonium van Oost-Vlaanderen.

1. E. Dhanens, Temse, in *Cultureel Jaarboek voor de provincie Oostvlaanderen*, 3 (1951), I, 303-408, ill.

[Published in 1953]. The separate issue is marked pages 303-414.

2. E. Dhanens, Kanton Kaprijke, in *Cultureel Jaarboek voor de provincie Oostvlander*, 7 (1953) III, 1-182, ill.

[Published in 1956].

E. Dhanens, Sint-Niklaaskerk Gent. Gent, 1960, 178 p., ill.

4. E. Dhanens, Dendermonde. Gent, 1961, 255 p., ill.

5. E. Dhanens, Sint-Baafskathedraal Gent. Gent, 1965, 316 p., ill.

6. E. Dhanens, Het retabel van het Lam Gods in de Sint-Baafskathedraal te Gent. Gent, 1965, 122 p., ill.

E. Dhanens, Kanton Sint-Maria-Horebeke. Tekst. Gent, 1971, 442 p., ill.

E. Dhanens, Kanton Sint-Maria-Horebeke, Illustratie. Gent, 1971, 320 p., ill.

9. P. Devos, De Onze-Lieve-Vrouwkerk van Pamele te Oudenaarde, I. Architectuur. Gent, 1978, 220 p., ill.

10. R. Van den Abeele-Bellon, De Onze-Lieve-Vrouwkerk van Pamele te Oudenaarde. II. Kunstwerken. Gent, 1979, 197 p., ill.

E. Dhanens, De Onze-Lieve-Vrouwkerk te Ninove. Gent, 1980, 129 p., ill.

14. L. Robijns, De Sint-Martinuskerk te Aalst. Kunstwerken (Band 1). Gent, 1980, 237 p., ill.

Published by the Provincial authorities.

## PROVINCE OF HAINAUT

E. Soil de Moriamé, Inventaire des Objets d'Art existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement judiciaire de Tournai.

1. Arrondissement de Tournai. Cantons d'Antoing, Celles, Leuze, Péruwelz, Templeuve. Charleroi, 1923, 210 p., ill.
2. Tournai, Cathédrale — Edifices civils. Charleroi, 1924, 204 p., ill.
3. Tournai. Edifices religieux. Communes du canton de Tournai. Charleroi, 1924, 284 p., ill.

4. Arrondissement d'Ath. Charleroi, 1925, 207 p., ill.

5. Arrondissement de Soignies. Canton de Lessines. Charleroi, 1926, 104 p., ill.

E. Soil de Moriamé, Inventaire des Objets d'Art et d'Antiquité existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement judiciaire de Mons.

1. Arrondissement de Soignies. Cantons de Soignies, Enghien, La Louvière, Le Rœulx. Charleroi, 1927, 280 p., ill.

2. Arrondissement Administratif d'Ath. Canton de Chièvres. Charleroi, 1928, 115 p., ill.

3. Arrondissement Administratif de Mons. Canton de Mons. Charleroi, 1929, 194 p., ill.

4. Cantons de l'Arrondissement Administratif de Mons: Boussu, Dour, Paturages, Lens. Charleroi, 1931, 293 p., ill.

E. Soil de Moriamé (†), Inventaire des Objets d'Art et d'Antiquité existant dans les édifices publics des communes de l'arrondissement judiciaire de Charleroi: Charleroi, Couillet, Dampremy, Gilly. Charleroi, 1941, 39 + XI p., ill.

These parts were published by the Provincial Committee of the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes.

Inventaire photographique indicatif du patrimoine belge d'art et d'histoire.

[E. Dhanens], Canton de Chimay. Brussels, 1948, 9 p., ill.

[X. Martens], Canton d'Ath. Brussels, 1950, 12 p., ill.

Published by A.C.L. (Central Iconographic Archives for National Art and Central Laboratory of the Belgian Musea) in Brussels.

## PROVINCE OF LIEGE

J. Renier, Inventaire des objets d'art renfermés dans les monuments civils et religieux de la ville de Liège. Liège, 1893, 336 p.

Die Kunstdenkmäler der Rheinprovinz (herausgegeben von Paul Clemen). 9, II. H. Reiners, Die Kunstdenkmäler der Landkreise Aachen und Eupen. Düsseldorf, 1912, 285 p., ill.

H. Reiners, Die Kunstdenkmäler von Eupen-Malmédy. Düsseldorf, 1935, 508 p., ill.

H. Massange de Collombs, Province de Liège, Inventaire des Objets d'Art et d'Antiquité conservés dans les églises, chapelles et presbytères du canton de Malmédy. Liège, 1930, 148 p., ill.

H. Massange de Collombs, Province de Liège. Inventaire des Objets d'Art et d'Antiquité conservés dans les églises, chapelles et presbytères du canton de St-Vith. Tournai, 1931, 148 p., ill.

[Poitier], Inventaire sommaire des objets d'art de l'arrondissement de Liège, in *Bulletin de la Commission*

*Royale des Monuments et des Sites*, 10 (1959), 146-246.

Published by the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes.

## PROVINCE OF LIMBURG

Inventaire archéologique des objets existant dans les édifices publics.

1. Canton de Tongres (A-M.). Hasselt, 1914, («revu en 1916»); 67 p.
2. Canton de Tongres (N-R). Hasselt, 1918, 32 p.
3. Canton de Tongres (R-W). Hasselt, 1919, 34 p.

Oudheidkundige inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen in kerken en openbare gebouwen.

4. Kanton Tongeren. Hasselt, 1927, ill.
5. Kanton Beeringen. Hasselt, 1922, 82 p.
6. Kanton Peer. Hasselt, 1928, 26 p.
7. Kanton Beeringen. Hasselt, 1931, 11 p. (supplement), ill.
8. Kanton Bilzen. Hasselt, 1932, 77 p., ill.
9. Stad Tongeren, Hasselt, 1935, 91 p., ill.

These issues are published by the Provincial Committee of the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes (1-7 by P. Daniëls and J. Paquay, 8-9 by J. Paquay).

[J. Milkens], Bondige inventaris der kunstvoorwerpen van het arrondissement Tongeren, in *Bulletin van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Monumenten en Landschappen*, 11 (1960), 187-309, ill.

Published by the Royal Commission on Monuments and Landscapes.

Limburgs Kunstpatrimonium.

1. M. Hendrickx, W. Sangers, De kerkschat van de Sint-Catharinakerk te Maaseik. Hasselt, 1963, 79 p., ill.

Published by the Provincial authorities.

J. De Borchgrave d'Altena, Notes pour servir à l'étude des œuvres d'art du Limbourg (première partie), in *Bulletin de la Société d'Art et d'Histoire du diocèse de Liège*, 43 (1963), 67-181, ill.

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## PROVINCE OF NAMUR

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Première série, Arrondissement de Namur, Tome I, Ville de Namur.

Premier fascicule. F. Courtoy, La Cathédrale Saint-Aubain. Namur, 1943, 60 p., ill.

E. Hayot, La Collégiale Notre-Dame à Dinant, in *Bulletin de la Commission Royale des Monuments et des Sites*, 2 (1950), 7-75, ill.

Also published in off print. (Arrondissement de Dinant, Premier fascicule, 71 p., ill.

## PROVINCE OF WEST-FLANDERS

Inventaire des objets d'art, qui ornent les églises et les établissements publics de la Flandre Occidentale, dressés par des commissions officielles et précédés d'une Introduction, ou Précis de l'histoire dans cette province, par A. Couvez, Bruges, 1852, 664 + VIII p.

Published by the Provincial authorities. Ref. footnote 6.

Aanwijzende fotografische inventaris van de drie rechterlijke kantons Brugge. Brussels, 1965, 444 p., ill.

Published by the Royal Institute for the Art Heritage, under the direction of Dr. A. Janssens de Bisthoven.

Kunstpatrimonium van West-Vlaanderen.

1. L. Devliegheer, Beeld van het Kunstbezit. Tielt-The Hague, 1965, 121 p., ill.
- 2-3. L. Devliegheer, De huizen te Brugge. Tielt-The Hague, 1968, 427 p., ill. (second edition in one volume, Tielt-Amsterdam, 1975, 492 p., ill; French edition: Les maisons à Bruges. Inventaire descriptif. Tielt-Amsterdam, 1975, 492 p., ill.).
4. L. Devliegheer, De Zwinstreek. Tielt-Utrecht, 1970, 224 p., ill.
5. L. Devliegheer, Damme. Tielt-Utrecht, 1971, 196 p., ill.
6. L. Devliegheer, De Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk te Kortrijk. Tielt-Utrecht, 1973, 120 p., ill.
7. L. Devliegheer, De Sint-Salvatorskatedraal te Brugge. Geschiedenis en architectuur. Tielt-Amsterdam, 1981, 250 p., ill.
8. L. Devliegheer, De Sint-Salvatorskatedraal te Brugge. Inventaris. Tielt-Amsterdam, 1979, 320 p., ill.

Published at the instruction of the Provincial authorities.

## STATE

Repertorium van het belangrijk cultuurbezit. Gebouwen en Kunstwerken. Répertoire des biens culturels importants. Monuments et Œuvres d'art. Brussels, 1955 (stencil).

Published by the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

Fotorepertorium van het meubilair van de Belgische bedehuizen. Brussel. Répertoire photographique du mobilier des sanctuaires de Belgique. Brussels, since 1972.

Tomes per judicial canton.

Edited by the Ministries of Netherlandish and French culture and the Royal Institute for the Art Heritage, under the scientific direction of R. Van de Walle. From the 222 cantons, 133 cantons have been published entirely or partially by December 31, 1979.

Bouwen door de eeuwen heen. Inventaris van het cultuurbezit in Vlaanderen.

1. Arrondissement Leuven. Liège, 1971, 462 p., ill.

Bouwen door de eeuwen heen. Inventaris van het cultuurbezit.

2. Arrondissement Nijvel. Liège, 1974, 646 p., ill.

Bouwen door de eeuwen heen, Inventaris van het cultuurbezit in België.

2 n. Vlaams Brabant. Halle-Vilvoorde. Gent, 1975, XXIV + 818 p., ill.

3 n a. Stad Antwerpen. Gent, 1976, LXII + 529 p., ill.

3 n b. Stad Antwerpen. Gent, 1979, LXII + 730 p., ill.

4 n a. Stad Gent. Gent, 1976, LIII + 678 p., ill.

4 n b. Stad Gent. Gent, 1979, 2 vol. LXXVIII + 648 p., and LXXVIII + 642 p., ill.

5 n. Arrondissement Aalst. Gent, 1978, 2 vol., L + 889 p., ill.

6 n. Arrondissement Hasselt. Gent, 1981, 2 vol., LXII + 1043 p., ill.

7 n. Arrondissement Sint-Niklaas. Gent, 1981, 2 vol., LIX + 809 p., ill.

Published at the instruction of the Ministry of Netherlandish Culture and the State Service for the conservation of Monuments and Landscapes; tomes 1 & 2 under the direction of Prof. R.M. Lemaire; from tome 3 on direction and coordination by S. Van Aerschot.

Bouwen door de eeuwen heen. Urgentie-inventaris van het bouwkundig erfgoed van de Brusselse agglomeratie. Gent, 1979, LXXXIX + 589 p., ill.

Published at the instruction of the Netherlandish Commission for Culture for the Brussels area, drawn up for the St. Lukas-archives in Brussels.

Le patrimoine monumental de la Belgique

1. Arrondissement de Louvain. Liège, 1971, 462 p., ill.

2. Arrondissement de Nivelles. Liège, 1973, 624 p., ill.

3. Ville de Liège. Liège, 1974, 453 p., ill.

4. Arrondissement de Mons. Liège, 1975, 626 p., ill.

5. Arrondissement de Namur. Liège, 1975, 2 vol., 835 p., ill.

6. Arrondissement de Tournai. Liège, 1978, 2 vol., 911 p., ill.

Le patrimoine monumental de la Belgique. Wallonie

7. Arrondissement de Marche-en-Famenne. Liège, 1979, 2 vol., 497 p., ill.

8. Arrondissement de Liège. Liège, 1980, 2 vol., 793 p., ill.

Published at the instruction of the ministry of French Culture under the general direction of Prof. R.M. Lemaire (vol. 1). C. Pirlot (vol. 2-6) and J. Remiche (vol. 7); in the scientific direction figure among others Prof. R.M. Lemaire, Prof. S. Brigode, Prof. L.-F. Genicot, A. Lanotte.

## RESUME

*Le Conseil Provincial de Flandre Orientale adopta, le 14 juillet 1823, une ordonnance sur la conservation des objets historiques et artistiques. L'année suivante, la même ordonnance fut promulguée par la Province de Flandre Occidentale.*

*Après 1830 (Indépendance de la Belgique), l'inventaire du patrimoine à conserver fut poursuivi. Les Gouverneurs des Provinces furent priés, en 1834 et 1835, de rédiger des listes des édifices et des objets d'art importants. Cette mesure était prise en corrélation avec la constitution, en 1835, d'une commission de conservation des monuments historiques.*

*Le premier inventaire publié sous forme de livre, parut en 1885. Il était consacré à la Flandre Occidentale. A. Couvez, qui en avait révisé le contenu, avait rédigé l'avant-propos.*

*Un arrêté royal, du 23 février 1861, avait confié à la Commission Royale des Monuments la tâche de poursuivre l'inventaire. Des Comités provinciaux se mirent au travail, mais il fallut attendre 1920, pour voir publier le volume consacré à Anvers.*

*Les inventaires publiés à l'étranger — P. Clemen, «Die Kunstdenkmäler der Rheinprovinz» et l'ouvrage de J. Kalf sur la Baronnie de Breda — avaient retenu*



*l'attention de la Commission Royale et furent proposés en exemple. La première guerre mondiale mit provisoirement fin à tous ces projets.*

*Pendant la guerre de 1914-1918, ce furent les autorités d'occupation allemandes qui procédèrent à un inventaire, dont le résultat a été publié en 1923, sous le titre de « Belgische Kunstdenkmäler ». Les travaux furent poursuivis après la guerre par les Comités provinciaux. La Commission Royale des Monuments et des Sites préférerait un inventaire centralisé.*

*Pendant la seconde guerre mondiale, le Service Photographique des Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire commença à photographier systématiquement le patrimoine artistique national. Le Service Photographique et le Laboratoire furent séparés des Musées royaux en 1946, pour constituer l'A.C.L. qui devint en 1957 l'Institut du Patrimoine Artistique (IRPA). Entre 1948 et 1965 furent publiés les inventaires de quatre cantons. Depuis, l'IRPA publie une nouvelle série, le « Répertoire photographique du mobilier des sanctuaires de Belgique ». La Commission Royale des Monuments et des Sites édita en 1959 et 1961 les inventaires de six arrondissements.*

*Mais, lassés d'attendre la publication de l'inventaire général, les provinces flamandes prenaient l'initiative en ce domaine et décidaient d'entreprendre leurs propres inventaires. La Flandre Orientale commençait en 1952, suivie par la Flandre Occidentale en 1960, la Province d'Anvers en 1963 et le Limbourg en 1968. Trois provinces publient actuellement leurs inventaires. Le Brabant n'a pas suivi leur exemple.*

*La tâche dont l'Etat belge s'était chargé en 1861 n'était donc encore que partiellement réalisée lorsqu'en 1971, les Ministères belges de la culture (culture néerlandaise et culture française) commencèrent la publication de deux séries d'ouvrages: Bouwen door de eeuwen heen. Inventaris van het Cultuurbezit in Vlaanderen » et « Le patrimoine monumental de la Belgique ». Ces deux séries sont comparables à leurs homologues étrangers (Kunstreisboek voor Nederland; N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England; G. Dehio, Handbuch der Deutschen Kunstdenkmäler) mais les publications belges sont plus détaillées tant pour le texte que pour les illustrations. Donc nous disposerons enfin, d'ici peu, de séries équivalentes, consacrées à l'inventaire de l'architecture belge.*

## RESUMEN

*El 14 de julio de 1823 Los Estados de la Provincia de Flandes Orientales publicaron un decreto sobre la salvaguardia de la historia y del arte, en el año siguiente un decreto de misma índole fue publicado en Flandes Occidentales.*

*El inventario emprendido continuó después de la independencia en 1830. En los años 1834 y 1835 se pidió a los gobernadores que redactaran las listas de los edificios y obras de arte, importantes; esta iniciativa tuvo relación con la creación de una comisión de salvaguardia de los monumentos, en 1835.*

*En el año 1852 fue publicado el primer inventario levantado en Flandes Occidentales. El libro tenía una presentación escrita por A. Couvez que había revisado el inventario.*

*El real decreto del 23 de febrero de 1861 da el trabajo del inventario a la Real Comisión de Monumentos y a sus miembros corresponsales. Los Comités de provincias iniciaron el trabajo, pero fue solo en 1902 que se publicó la primera edición del inventario dedicado a Amberes.*

*Inventarios producidos en el extranjero, como Die Kunstdenkmäler der Rheinprovinz de P. Clemen y el libro de J. Kalf sobre la Baronía de Breda llamaron la atención y fueron citados como ejemplares. No obstante, la primera Guerra Mundial puso en paro provisionalmente los proyectos.*

*Durante la guerra las fuerzas alemanas ocupantes trabajaron a un inventario, el resultado de ese trabajo fue publicado en 1923 en dos volúmenes con el título de Belgische Kunstdenkmäler. Después de la guerra los Comités de provincias reanudaron su trabajo aunque el objetivo de la Real Comisión de Monumentos y Paisajes fuese establecer un inventario central.*

*Durante la segunda Guerra Mundial el servicio fotográfico de los Reales Museos de Arte y Historia iniciaron la tarea de fotografiar sistemáticamente el patrimonio artístico. En 1946 ese servicio y su laboratorio fueron separados de los museos construyéndose así el «A.C.L.» que en 1957 se transformó en el Real Instituto del Patrimonio Artístico.*

*Entre 1948 y 1969 fueron publicados los inventarios*

*relativos a cuatro cantones. A partir de 1972 el Real Instituto publica una nueva serie de inventarios intitulados «Repertoire photographique du mobilier des sanctuaires de Belgique». Entre 1959 y 1961 la Real Comisión de los Monumentos y Paisajes publica por su parte los inventarios de seis districtos. En ese intervalo, las Provincias de Flandes cansadas de esperar el inventario central tomaron la decisión de obrar por su propia cuenta: en 1952 la inventarisación de Flandes Oriental, empezó; y luego en 1960 la de Flandes Occidental, se continuó en 1963 en la Provincia de Amberes y en 1968 en la de Limburgo, sólo el Brabante quedó atrás.*

*La tarea aceptada por el Estado en 1861 por fin ha*

*sido ejecutada cuando, en 1971, los Ministerios de la Cultura francesa y de la Cultura flamenca publicaron respectivamente «Bouwen door de eeuwen heen Inventaris van het Cultuurbezit in Vlaanderen» y «Le patrimoine monumental de la Belgique». Estas dos publicaciones son similares a otras obras extranjeras (Kunstreisboek voor Nederland, The Buildings of England de N. Pevsner y Handbuch der Deutschen Kunstdenkmäler de G. Dehio) pero son mucho más desarrolladas tanto por su texto como por su iconografía.*

*Próximamente tendremos pues a nuestra disposición una serie homogénea de inventarios de los estilos arquitectónicos de Bélgica.*