

PRESS RELEASE

A monumental book on the history of Liège in Belgium will be released by mid-September. This volume meets a real need as the last general history of Liège is now fifty years old and hard to come by. It is being published simultaneously in French, English, Dutch and German by Les Grandes Conférences Liégeoises (GCLG) and Marot Publishers (Brussels) on the occasion of the University of Liège's bicentenary.

This sumptuous edition, written by a team of eminent scholars and experts under the leadership of Bruno Demoulin, will appeal not only to those with a keen interest in history but also to a wide general readership. With over 400 illustrations of historical documents, beautiful examples of artistic heritage, and photographs and maps made to order, the book gives the art and culture of Liège the showcase it deserves.

Aptly titled **History of Liège: City, Capital, Metropolis**, this overview enables us to experience the history and the art of the city and its surrounding territory – the former prince-bishopric of Liège. It also provides insight into the institutional challenges the city faces and its privileged position in the heart of Europe, a position that is the key to a promising future.

Liège deserves an up-to-date publication that does justice to its long, turbulent and rich history. Although continuous habitation began only in the 2nd century CE, with the building of a Roman villa, the oldest traces of human presence date back to prehistoric times. For a thousand years – from the early Middle Ages to the time of the French Revolution – the bishop of Liège ruled its surrounding territories, French-speaking and Dutch-speaking, as a prince of the Holy Roman Empire. In culture and language, however, the city leaned towards France: just one of the causes of the countless conflicts in which Liège became embroiled over the course of time. An even deeper source of friction was an irrepressible urge for independence. Added to this, long-running disputes between the prince, the cathedral chapter, the citizenry and powerful noble families regularly led to internal strife. After the Liège Revolution, which coincided with the French Revolution, there followed two centuries of wars, industrial and political revolutions, and painful recessions, but also new hope and new opportunities.

The spirit of openness that typifies the city of Liège led those behind this book to opt for multilingual publication. Apart from being welcomed by the Liégeois, it will also be an excellent resource for institutions and companies based in the city that wish to promote international ties, as well as an ideal gift for friends outside the 'fiery city'. This volume breaks new ground and is bound to be the standard work for decades to come.

Hardback, 29 x 24 cm, 368 pages, 400 illustrations.
Price: €50.

Purchasing the book gives free access to the digital version (e-book).

Contents

- Foreword Arthur Bodson
Preface Albert Corhay
Introduction Bruno Demoulin
1 Situation and Site Émile Mérenne and Bernadette Mérenne-Schoumaker
2 From Prehistory to the end of Classical Antiquity Marcel Otte and Thomas Morard
3 The Middle Ages – From the 7th Century until 1468 Jean-Louis Kupper and Florence Close
– 1468–1505 Alexis Wilkin
4 Early Modern Times 1505–1795 Bruno Demoulin and Pierre-Yves Kairis
5 Modern Times – 1795–1914 Philippe Raxhon and Jean-Patrick Duchesne
– 1914–2017 Catherine Lanneau, Francis Balace and Jean-Patrick Duchesne
6 From Decline to Urban Renaissance (1945–2016) Bernadette Mérenne-Schoumaker
7 Institutional Issues Christian Behrendt and Quentin Pironnet
8 Literary Liège (1914–2016) Laurent Demoulin and Jean-Marie Klinkenberg
Conclusion, bibliography, indices of people and places, lists of bishops and burgomasters Bruno Demoulin

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