

April 15, 1640 **We believe we are doing the Archaeologists a favor**

by transcribing here the note that van den Berche placed below the first two drawings. "I pulled - he says - these two antique stones out of the originals which are masoned in the wall of the parish church of Horne, capital of the county, appenage of the county of Looz, on April 9, first of the Easter holidays 1640, and the pastor of the place told me at the time that he had several medals of the Roman emperors found at the said Horn." van den Berch then describes several Roman antiquities and medals found at Heel, a village located a league from Horn. He adds: "The most admirable is from the same place, that the village of Heel is called after Helena (1); what is known by tradition and is all the more credible since a statue of very fine white marble was found in the ground that was dug up, and is still, this April 15, 1640, lying on the real road, but very broken, because one can see the thighs from above to the ankles of the same piece of the height of six feet and a half; which is of a lady, to be veiled by her body like the Roman ladies; and they hold for certain that the rest of the statue is still in the ground."

January 1, 1789 **The lives of illustrious Greeks and Romans, compared by PLUTARCH**

THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER [and of Caesar]

Having given this charge to convey to PARMENIO, he placed the helmet on his head; as if he had already put on his other weapons in the tent, consisting (1/†) in a closing skirt of Sicilian make surrounded by a belt, and over a doubled linen coat of arms, from the booty obtained in the Battle of Issus. His helmet was of iron, made by THEOPHILUS (m/\$), who had worked it so beautifully that it glittered as if it had been pure silver. Attached to this helmet was a ring collar, also made of iron, but here and there set with stones. His sword was of unparalleled temper and exceptional lightness. It was given to him by the King of the Citians (n/**). He wore this because he was generally accustomed to use a sword in battle. The sling on which this sword hung was more beautiful in work than his other armor, being the work of HELICON the Ancient, and a tribute to the Citizenship of the Rhodians, from which ALEXANDER had received him as a gift. Here too he was always accustomed to use himself in battles. Furthermore, as long as he was still busy arranging the Phalanx, or correcting something or other, or giving orders, or riding through the ranks for inspection, he used another horse, so that he could use the Bucephalus, who was already turning a year old, wanted to save. Then as soon as they were not ready to go to work, this horse was fetched; which no sooner had he climbed than he gave the signal to attack.

(†) The accuracy of our author is extraordinary here, as he not only describes the weapons that ALEXANDER wore on this day, one by one, but also carefully lists their craftsmen. This remarkable blow, namely, destroyed the Persian Monarchy.

Furthermore, DACIER has very well noted: >> that PLUTARCHUS here too followed the manner of HOMERUS.

(\$) We have heard of this artist elsewhere, as well as of HELICON, who is subsequently mentioned.

(**) Inhabitants of Citium, a town on the Island of Cyprus.

How, said he, will any man take the trouble in his own person to furnish his horse, or to repair his lance, or helmet, who is loath to lay his hands upon his own dear body?" "Don't you know, Did he say that the main point of victory for your people is that you do not do the same that they do who are conquered by you? Furthermore, for this reason, he devoted himself much more to all kinds of activities, such as battles and hunting, for which he feared no fatigues or dangers. It was also from here that a certain Spartan Representative, who was present when he felled a great Lion, shouted to him: "Truly, ALEXANDER, you fought very bravely with that Lion for the Kingship!" From this hunt CRATERUS made a dedication in the Temple at Delphi, consisting of copper images of the Lion, of the Dogs, of the King who fights with the Lion, and of himself who comes to the rescue.

Part of it was made by LYSIPPUS (k), another part by LEOCHARES.

(k) This gift of CRATERUS, consecrated in the Temple at Delphi, is mentioned among the works of LYSIPPUS by PLINY H. N. XXXIV, 7. The same PLINY speaks of LEOCHARES, L. XXXIV, 8. and XXXVI, 5.

January 1, 1809 **Plutarch's Lives, translated by J. and W. Langhorne**

As soon as he had returned Parmenio this answer, he put on his helmet; for in other points he had come ready-armed out of his tent. He had a short coat of the Sicilian fashion girt close about him, and over that abreast-plate of linen strongly quilted, which was found among the spoils at the battle of Issus. His helmet, the workmanship of Theophilus, was of iron, but so well polished that it shone like the brightest silver. To this was fitted a gorget of the same metal, set with precious

stones. His sword, the weapon which he generally used in battle, was a present from the king of the Citeans, and could not be excelled for lightness or for temper. But the belt, which he wore in all his engagements, was more superb than the rest of his armour. It was given him by the Rhodians, as a mark of their respect, and old Helicon 99 had exerted all his art upon it. In drawing up his army and giving orders, as well as in exercising and reviewing it, he spared Bucephalus on account of his age, and rode another horse; but he constantly charged upon him; and he had no sooner mounted him, than the signal was always given.

99 In this description of Alexander's armour, and the mention of the workmen by whom it had been made, as well as in the principle of his preceding reply to Parmenio, and the eagle introduced below, Dacier traces the imitator of Homer. Helicon and his father Acesus were eminent in the art of embroidery, as we learn from Athenaeus, xi. 9., who preserves an inscription to that purport copies from the temple of Apollo at Delphi.

After this, he constantly took the exercise of war or hunting, and exposed himself to danger and fatigue with less precaution than ever: so that a Lacedaemonian ambassador, who attended him one day when he killed a fierce lion, said: "Alexander, you have disputed the prize of royalty gloriously with the lion." Craterus got this hunting-piece represented in bronze, and consecrated it in the temple at Delphi. There were the lion, the dogs, the king fighting with the lion, and Craterus advancing to the king's assistance. Some of these statues were the workmanship of Lysippus, and others of Leochares.

January 1, 1807 **"Ring Collar"**

According to a description from 1840, a kind of ring collar was found in Meijel in 1807:

I very much doubted the report that a farmer in Deurne Liessel was in possession of a Roman sword and a golden shield that was dug into the Peel, because I had never heard anything about it. Research has also shown me that no one knows anything about it, probably people have confused this with what took place in the neighboring municipality of Meijel. In the year 1807 a gold shield was found there. Having been in Meyel for a number of years, I went to the house of the then mayor Goossens to see this curiosity. He showed me a shield which had been found in the peel in the year 1807 about five feet below the surface of the ground in the peel on the occasion of a peat digging, it was made of gold or at least heavily gilded hammered work, on it were hieroglyphs and other figures of lions, tigers etc driven, and had the shape of a crescent moon, much resembling a ring collar. This description indicates a phalera, and has a stunning similarity to The phalara from Starobêlsk, as shown in Figure 20 of Iranians and Greeks in South Russia.

~~Naar het berigt~~ Ik heb het berigt dat een landbouwer te Deurne Liessel in het bezit zoude zijn van een ~~oud~~ romeinsch zwaard en een goud schild welk in den peel zoude zijn uitgegraven, zeer betwijfeld, wijl ik er nooit iets van vernomen had. ook is mij bij onderzoek ~~verzekerd~~ gebleken dat er niemand iets van weet. waarschijnlijk heeft men dit verward met ?? het geen in de naburige gemeente Meyel heeft plaats gehad. ~~In het jaar 1807~~ men heeft ~~men~~ aldaar een goud schild gevonden. voor eenige jaren te Meyel zijnde heb ik mij naar het huis van den toenmaligen burgemeester Goossens begeven om deze merkwaardigheid te zien. hij vertoonde mij een schild welk in den peel in het jaar 1807 omtrent vijf voeten onder ~~het onder~~ de oppervlakte van den grond ~~in den peel~~ bij gelegenheid eener turfgraving gevonden was, hetzelve was van goud of althans zwaar verguld ~~gedreven werk~~, op hetzelve waren hyroglyphen en andere figuren van leeuwen, tijgers &c gedreven, en had de vorm van een halve maan, veel gelekende naar een ringkraag zoo als de kapiteins der infanterie ~~voor ?~~ nog niet zeer lang geleden op de borst droegen.

May 9, 1817 **In an old booklet, which was published in Venlo in 1821**

by Widow H. Bontamps under the title of Short geographical sketch of the province of Limburg for youth, page 35-36 the following footnote:

"When on May 9, 1817, a resident of this city (Venlo), to erect a new factory building, had the ground excavated behind his house (N° 693 in the Vleeschstraat), they found a depth of 7 to 8 feet, on a stone slab, surrounded by clay, lying on a layer of pebbles. Its length was 6 and a half, its width 4 feet. The egg-shaped carved depth was 6 feet long and 3 and a half wide, provided with a very fitting lid. This lid is a table hewn from hard limestone, 4 inches thick, very smooth on the inside and on the edge. The tuff stone, which makes up the sarcophagus (stone coffin), cannot be found in the entire area, but the blue limestone is brought here

by barges from the area around Namur. The sarcophagus stood in a direction from east to west, there was another tin urn, where it was widest 11 inches in height and 15 in diameter. Its shape is very simple, the opening is 6 inches wide, and is closed by a lid. In the sarcophagus were found some pieces of white thin glass, probably from a tear glass, some earth and remains of burnt bones, among which pieces of the skull and bones were clearly visible. Also in the urn, there was something resembling burnt bones; but in much smaller chunks. The Sarcophagus was without inscription. However, around the urn one sees Runic writing, which is not deeply and irregularly printed in the tin, and for this reason, as well as because of the dents in the urn, is illegible. In the vicinity of the grave site, another flint of 12 to 15 inches in length and 6 inches in thickness was found."

The question is whether anything more is known in Venlo about that find and where the objects are currently located.

November 26, 1819 **ECHTERNACH, near TRIER, November 10.**

In the vicinity of Alttrier, 2 1/2 hours southwest of Echternach, in a high-lying village, through which the road to Luxembourg leads, many Roman antiquities have recently been excavated, which are very remarkable for history and archaeology. Among other things, a silver hand of a Roman coat of arms was found; two Roman signet rings of gold with red stones, on one of which the goddess *Diana* was found, and on the other a sphinx; several broad silver rings, on which the niches of the Empresses *Faustina*, *Lucilla* and *Didia Clara* are engraved; many Roman hairpins, ash urns and grave lamps. A great quantity of gold, silver and copper coins, among which a Nero, two Commodi, a Constantinus M. and a Constans of gold; an exceptionally rare Pescennius Riger, a Marciana, a Mathedia, several Faustinas, Julia Mameas and others, of fine silver. Among the urns were found two of *terra sigillata*, the most beautiful that have ever been seen, on which more than 50 figures are depicted. Furthermore, two Roman hand mills of stone were excavated, a sacrificial bull with sacrificial instruments hung around it, two Mercuries of rons, a he-goat, a goat and two Priapes of copper, a surgical instrument, 60 household gods of stone of various colours; some stones with Roman Emperors on horseback; some statues of gods and goddesses, among which two of white marble, representing the goddess *Nehalennia*, with a dog on her lap. From the multitude of objects found, it appears that this region was of importance. The Romans had a colony here, which is believed to have been located on the road from Trier to *Durecorturum* (Rheims).

1 January 1828 **NEERHAREN. A beautiful Roman silver jug was found in Neerharen** in 1828, during the construction of the canal from Maastricht to Bois-le-Duc [Zuidwillemsvaart, Maastricht 's-Hertogenbosch]. This vase, which lay near the current point, three metres below the ground, at a height of 0.322 and is decorated with chiseling and circles on the neck and foot. The bottom of the vase, also chiseled, bore an inscription. This beautiful object has been part of the Leiden Museum since 1831 (1).

(1) C. Leemans, Roman objects in Maastricht, p. 69.

18 June 1830 - **Two day laborers from Baarlo, Limburg, busy digging up clay,** found, while digging, an earthenware vase filled with antique gold and silver medals, worth 300 fl.; they are all the size of a 25 cent coin.

22 June 1830 **To the editors of the Éclaireur politique.**

Baarlo, June 19, 1830.

Gentlemen,

In your issue of yesterday, you reported on the find that was made here, a few days ago, while digging up clay. — It is true, gentlemen, that an urn filled with various coins, both silver and gold, was found there, but of a greater value than the 300 florins mentioned in your newspaper.

I know that the owner, Mathieu Holtakkers, sold them in the first days to one person for 1600 fl., and since then to others for 3000 fl. — It seems that the urn is never empty, since he still sells them every day, and one even pays 4 fl. for a silver coin and 20 fl. for a gold coin the size of a Napoleon.

Most of the coins that make up this collection are different from each other and date from the time of Nero, Vespasian, Trajan, Faustina Augusta, Diva Augusta, Antonina and other Roman emperors.

A subscriber.

September 1, 1830 **BAARLO In 1830, in the month of September, a certain** Holtakkers, called den Bisschop, found in the municipality of Baarlo opposite the

- 205 church, on the side of Blerick (the old Blariacum), an urn, containing several hundred Roman coins from different consulates in gold and silver, a collection which was dispersed in the surrounding area, but the greater part of which was purchased by Mr. Louis Wolters, banker in Venlo.
- 210 January 1, 1833 **In Leende, in 1833, on the occasion of peat digging,** a blacksmith discovered, at a depth of almost twelve Rhineland feet, three Roman tokens of yellow copper, of the first size, excellently preserved, bearing the busts and names of AUGUSTUS CLAUDIUS and NERO.
- 215 Bl. 17. Magusamus or Macusanus. The Dommel flows past here.
- January 1, 1835 **MONTFORT. Stone and bronze weapons have been found** in this village on several occasions. One of these objects is in the 's-Hertogenbosch museum. It is a ~~quarter-axe~~, found in 1835, in a peat bog, 8 to 10 feet below the ground. (1) Mr. Guillon, notary in Roermond, gave the Royal Museum of Brussels four stone axes or wedges, three of which were made of flint and one of basalt, found in 1836 and 1837 in the peat bogs of the commune of Montfort. (2)
- 220 May 4, 1837 **NETHERLANDS. - In the most recently published issue** of the Nederlandsch Magazijn you will find an article about the recently excavated urns in North Brabant [Noord Brabant]. This mainly means that reports have recently been found in several of our newspapers regarding the excavation of antiquities in the municipality of Deurne, province of North Brabant, and now the Editorial Staff of the above-mentioned warehouse has received some details regarding that excavation, mainly as follows: A Ritmeester [captain] at the regiment of hussars n°. 6, having
- 230 noticed on an earlier occasion that some mounds on the Kempen heath, when excavated, turned out to be burial mounds and contained urns or ash jars, I came up with the idea that some such mounds, which were found on the heath near Deurne, its current cantonment, were present, may have served such purposes and contained antiquities. With the permission of the mayor there, five urns or ash jars were found, which
- 235 increased with subsequent excavations and now already exceed the number of fifty. It is a pity that the husbandmen, hearing of this, also began to dig on their side, in the hope of finding treasure; smashed or damaged the urns they dug up; great was the disappointment of these people when they found in it nothing but ashes and some half-decayed apparent human bones, such as skulls, ribs, thigh bones, etc. Not one token or coin has been recovered; only a piece of metal, which one thinks should be taken
- 240 for a mouthpiece of a wind instrument. The urns found are of different sizes, but all of virtually the same shape, some with lids. The heathland in which the urns were found is approximately four hectares in size, the mounds are fairly regular, but the entire area appears to have served as a cemetery, because urns have also been found
- 245 outside the mounds and at some distance from them. The urns are usually covered with a layer of charcoal. After all, as soon as one finds it, one is certainly close to an urn. Some are so high that one finds the fibrous roots of the common heather at the top of the ash; others have been found deeper, but at uneven depths. The substance from which these pots or urns are composed is smooth, solid, and of a dark brown color; no vitrification is visible on it, nor any inscription or inscription. If these were made in Deurne, where two potteries are now found, then one must admit that this art has not made any progress there in 10 or 15 centuries; These urns are purer and smoother and treated with more care than is currently the case. The excavations are continuing in some places, but in the urns, as mentioned, nothing but
- 250 ashes and the above-mentioned human bones are found.
- 255 February 25, 1842 **Mr. P. O. P. Guyot in Nijmegen of a very remarkable collection** of bronzes and other objects found near Deurne in North Brabant, most of which had been collected by Captain Baron van Vorst, who handed them over to Mr. Guyot. This
- 260 important acquisition, together with the urns and other objects reported in 1838 and 1839, puts the Museum in possession of the principal and rarest results of the excavation near Deurne. All these scattered discoveries, now brought together, form a whole which may shed great light on the knowledge of the ancient peoples who once inhabited our country. Most of these objects are described by Mr. Janssen, the
- 265 curator, in the Kunst en Letterbode of 1838, pages 370-395.
- January 3, 1844 * **BOXMEER, December 31 Recently in this community,** on the occasion of a useful excavation or excavation of a piece of pasture belonging to Mr Hengst, several remarkable Roman antiquities have been found, consisting of
- 270 urns, grave lamps and other pottery of various sizes and whitish in colour, as well as some copper coins with the images and names of Roman emperors. The land on which the excavation took place is situated at a natural height, so that it is never

watered by the waters of the flooding Maas, while the surrounding lands are flooded almost annually; perhaps it is due to this characteristic that the Romans chose that place for a cemetery; that this was indeed the case is clearly demonstrated by what has been found.

In the past, little or nothing was heard in these regions about the discovery of Roman antiquities and it is due to the ignorance in this regard and to the greed of the workers that one unfortunately has to regret the shattering of some objects that are so valuable to enthusiasts. Now, however, the work is being continued attentively under the owner's supervision and it is hoped that, with the help of experts, a more detailed report of what has been found will be given later.

1848 **ANTIQUE COLLECTIONS IN ROERMOND, VENLO AND MAASTRICHT IN 1848**

BY JOS. HABETS ROERMOND, J. J. ROMEN AND ZONEN.

In 1848 the late Mr. Janssen, curator, took over at the Royal Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, on behalf of the government, an art tour through Limburg. The purpose of this visit was to give a report on the condition of the archaeological monuments of this region and to investigate the direction of the old Roman highways that crossed this province. Mr. Janssen visited Tongeren, Maastricht, Roermond and Venlo. He carried out excavations in Melenburg near Buggenum and undertook a trip in the vicinity of Arcen to a few earthenware fortifications that seemed to have served to protect the Fossa Eugeniana and found in the vicinity, in Zand near Pont, on Prussian territory, the Roman road from Coriovallum to Xanten (Castra Vetera) and a number of Roman antiquities.

From his report we take what he has recorded regarding the collection from the pre-Christian period of the late Mr. Charles Guillon in Roermond, as well as some details about Roman objects that were at the town hall in Venlo and Maastricht at the time. See here what he has done regarding the antiquities of the late Mr. Guillon.

"In Roermond there is one of the richest collections of Dutch antiquities, namely that of Mr. Ch. Guillon, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce there. As a private collection of national antiquities, it is inferior only in Roman antiquities to that of Mr. P. C. G. Guyot in Nijmegen, but it far surpasses it in Gallo-Germanic remains, especially in carving objects made of stone (1=1). Moreover, it has the peculiarity that it was collected by the owner himself and his brother, and that, with the exception of tokens and some objects found in Xanten, everything was found in the Duchy of Limburg, and that the places where it was discovered were are known accurately. Anyone who wishes to know the character of the antiquities to be found in Limburg in general will find satisfaction in this collection, especially under the guidance of the knowledgeable owner.

"For a long time, Mr. Guillon had intended to publish the most important part of his collection, and also to publish a general overview of it, but this was something he was prevented from doing by his many practical activities. Much has already been drawn up and depicted by him, and during my presence there he renewed his intention to continue the scientific work that had already begun as soon as possible.

Accordingly, it would first appear in the light: a treatise on the investigations he made in Gallo-Germanic graves in various places in Limburg, and then a treatise on his cutting tools made of stone. All drawings and a large part of the text have already been completed on both subjects.

"To give some idea of the nature, size and importance of this collection, the following overview, based on autopsy, will serve; however, only the most important information is indicated with the greatest brevity.

A. CELTIC AND GALLO-GERMANIC OBJECTS.

I. Of stone: 1° A number of wedges and some hammers, perhaps 50 pieces, mostly made of flint and of well-known shapes. Very rare, perhaps entirely unique, are two wedges of Jasper, one of which has a very narrow drilled hole on the side of 2 stripes in diameter, the other also shows traces of such a hole, but the drilling of which has failed. These holes were apparently intended to allow a strap to be inserted through which these objects could be hung. They are therefore so important, because from those narrow holes it must be concluded that a metal awl was drilled and it therefore appears that such wedges, which originate from the time of the earliest civilization of a people, were processed or used when the use of metal for technical instruments was already in vogue (1=2). Among these wedges there are four more that deserve comment because of their rarer shape.

2° A number of arrowheads, approximately 40 pieces, made of flint, including at least 11 or 12 distinctive shapes. Until now, not more, perhaps not even as many forms of flint arrowheads have been known, and the variety of the arrowheads mentioned is all the more important when one considers that they all come from a

single part of our homeland, the Duchy of Limburg.

3° Flint blades 20 pieces of different shapes and sizes, as well as small as yet unknown objects made of flint, some similar to those depicted by me on the map of the Uddelermeer, etc., to my treatise On the oldest Dutch fortifications in the Contributions of Mr. Nijhoff IV p. 71.

II. Made of bronze. 1° Celts, frames or catejen, 5 pieces, of known shapes. 2° one pear-shaped dagger. 3° one arrowhead, in shape completely similar to one of the flints mentioned above. If this arrowhead is not Roman, but, as it seems to me, probably Celtic or Gallo-Germanic, it proves once again that the forms of tools used in the Stone Period were kept track of later in the Bronze Period (1=3).

III. Made of iron. 1° A flat bowl of 0.085 cubits in diameter and 0.04 cubits high. As far as I know, similar iron bowls have not yet been found elsewhere with Germanic objects. 2° A cone-shaped bell, provided with an eye at the top, high 0.1 inch; as well as some individual clappers made of similar bells. These objects found near or in Germanic urns are also extremely rare, if not unique. 3° Three arrowheads, one of which, with a hollow stem and provided with barbs, long 0.11 or 0.12 cubits, which may be mistaken for the Germanic framea by the owner. 4° Seven blades of three distinct shapes. 5° Two buckles of distinct shapes (1=4).

IV. Of baked earth: A very large number of urns and other vases and dishes, of various shapes, sizes, workmanship and decoration, some of which are rare.

B. ROMAN OBJECTS.

An important part of this has already been mentioned in our report on Melenburg (2=5). In addition, however, 150 jars, urns, dishes, lamps, etc., including some made of terra sigillata; a large bronze bowl (patera) and a hexagonal bottle of light green glass (3=6), not to mention many other small objects.

"The Roman objects found at corals of pâte of different colors and shapes; round belt decorations of white, yellow and blue pâte (formerly considered to be stem beans) (2=8). These Xanten objects are still increasing, because the owner has a regular purchaser in Xanten, so he cannot miss an important object newly found there. This is all the more important because the well-known Xanten antiquity friend, the notary Houben, has ceased to increase his collection through purchases in recent years, so that much is now preserved for science that would otherwise be scattered or hidden from many antiquarians.

"For the medal collection, which contains 2000 pieces of Roman coins, with the exception of the medieval and later ones, because time did not permit me to do so, I was only able to use a part, which included some rare pieces such as: the as quadrans, triens, some consular and one, I believe, unpublished by Postumus". This report by Mr. Janssen shows the condition in which this remarkable collection of antiquities was during his visit to Roermond in 1848. Since that time, the late Mr. Guillon has spared no effort and no sacrifices to increase his favorite collections and by to enrich new purchases, so that it can be assumed without exaggeration that the number of objects more than doubled until his death, which occurred on November 10, 1873. The value of what was acquired later is also much greater than what was seen by Mr. Janssen. His library, his collection of archives, manuscripts, maps, drawings, etchings, paintings and objects of art and taste were auctioned and distributed in December 1874. However, this is not the case with his collection of coins, medals, stamps, carved stones, as well as with the above-mentioned collection of archaeological objects from the prehistoric, Germanic, Classical and Frankish times. These have remained in the possession of Mr Clement Guillon, lawyer in Roermond. It would be desirable that the government or one of our Limburg cities purchased this collection; they could well serve as the basis for a municipal Museum.

Mr. Janssen reports the following on relatively few Roman tiles with legion marks that he saw in Venlo: "On the trip to Venlo I heard from a fellow traveler that there was a collection of Roman antiquities at the town hall, deposited by a certain Mr. Justen, wine merchant in Brussels. When I inquired about this at the town hall from the employees present there, Mr Canoy replied that the collection had been sold by the owner for some time to the Provincial Society of Sciences in 's Hertogenbosch, with the exception of a few tiles, which were considered too insignificant, and which were now produced at my request. These were by no means unimportant, and the only regret was that no one knew where they had been found. I guessed that they descended from proximity to Venlo, where many Roman tiles (with legion marks) are found; finally because some stamps of these stones do not correspond to stamps found in Nijmegen, many of which, perhaps thousands, I have examined. The stamps of the Venlo-tiles contained the names of army divisions: (L)IMIN (legio 1 Minerva), (L)VR (legio 5 rapax), LEGVIVIC (legio 6 victrix), LXV (legio 15), LEGXXX, LEGXXXV (legio 30 Ulpia Victrix); also EXCGERINF (exercitus

Germaniae inferioris) and RHENANA, with the latter name it should be noted that the word TRANS was probably written on an associated tile, so that that stone comes from the legio transrhenana, of which, among other things, tiles were found in Dormagen are, according to STEINER Cod. Inscr. Rom. Rhen. No 699 or 697. Below this was a worn inscription, probably from the VIth legion, but with one name unknown to me. Furthermore, there were three very rare ones, in that on the surface of the stone where the inscription was located, there were three convex, button-shaped eminences, which probably served to prevent the stamp from being damaged when laying another tile, they had this form:

0.25.

Another tile was therefore remarkable in that the stamp had been pressed on it twice, crosswise, as follows:
Of the factory stamps I found only one that was somewhat legible, namely: OF. M (officina Marcelli or something like that.)"

So much for Mr. Janssen's notes. There would be confusion in science if the locations of antiquities were not stated accurately and truthfully. Roman legion tiles are the sure sign of the presence of Roman army units and permanent military stations.

It would therefore be of the utmost importance if one could find out where the aforementioned legion marks were found. With this aim in mind, we contacted Mr Gallot, then secretary of the city of Venlo, who, with a date of April 16, 1877, very willingly informed us of the following: "Mr A. Justen, on his departure from here to Brussels, (around the year 1843) requested to be allowed to temporarily place his collection of stuffed birds and antiques at the town hall, which he was granted. Some time later he sold his antiquities to the provincial museum in 's Hertogenbosch; a few Roman tiles remained, and these are the ones that Mr. Janssen van Leiden saw here on site. Mr. Justen sold his collection of stuffed birds to his native city of Venlo, and they were placed with the remaining Roman tiles in a room of the building of the Higher Civic School in that city, where they are still located today. If I remember correctly, the tiles in question would have been found in the vicinity of Venlo, namely in Baarlo, Grubbenvorst or elsewhere."

This does not resolve the doubt about the origin of the Venlo tiles. For science they still remain what in the field of heraldry is called objects of inquiry. In Maastricht, Mr. Janssen visited the Roman objects that were found in the Stokstraat in 1840 and described by Dr Leemans in his work entitled Oudheden van Maastricht (1=9). He found it wrapped in paper, stored in a cupboard at the town hall. He regretted that these objects were not accessible to the public and spoke to Mayor Nierstrass about the desirability of displaying these items openly and having a lectern made for this purpose, which the Lord Mayor declared himself willing to do.

After elaborating on other antiquities of the city of Maastricht, the reporter continues: "Among the antiquities from pre-Christian times, present in Maastricht, but left unmentioned by those who have written about Maastricht antiquities, are some objects that are in the collection of *Société des amis des arts et des sciences* are preserved. These are two Roman lamps, one scent flask, one bronze mantle hook (fibula), two bone hair needles and one (non-Roman) wedge of flint, the latter damaged and coming from a cultivated area near the St. Pietersberg (2=10); also a coffin of red sandstone, square in shape and Roman in origin, according to me. This is remarkable because of four round, niche-shaped arches, carved from the inside into the walls, probably in imitation of the niches of the Columbaria, in which the urns containing the bones and ashes of the dead were usually placed. The place where this coffin was found was not known, but at my request they would investigate it (1=11).

I found another hitherto unknown and very likely Roman monument in the cave of the Church of Our Lady, a cave that, judging by the shape of the columns, dates from the 11th century. It was a gray sandstone, elongated square in shape and very well carved into the shape of an altar, the height of ? inch. However, there was no trace of inscription to be discovered, and it seemed to me that there had never been an inscription on it, and was therefore probably transferred as merchandise, to be provided with an inscription later, when someone needed an altar or tombstone. There are more examples of this from Roman times. This altar lay in a deserted corner, against the wall, but deserved a better place, where it was protected from loss or mutilation."

After this remark, Mr. Janssen proceeds to discuss two examples of negligence that were committed around the time of his trip to Maastricht. He gives an incorrect representation of the well-known sale of the Romanesque relic cabinets of the St. Servatius Church, which sale the writer puts at the expense of the church council of

Our Lady, and furthermore he initiates a campaign against tasteless and inartificial repairs in the same Our Lady Church. "A few years ago," he says, "the council of this church approved the beautiful Romanesque columns of the choir (which I believe are made of sandstone and remains from the 11th century), whose beautiful sculpture is no less fascinating than that of the portal of St. Servaas Church, to have it painted in the manner of red-colored marble! Similar mutilations will be difficult to prevent if ecclesiastical councils or administrations continue to exhibit a complete lack of taste and artistry. But it would be desirable that in colleges of this nature there was at least always a member who had some knowledge of or respect for ancient art, so that, if there was a danger that artistic remains were overused or otherwise damaged or removed, the competent authorities would immediately be notified in order to prevent the danger. Perhaps a disposition of the Ministers of Worship could have a favorable influence on this. Whatever this may be, I felt obliged to respectfully propose to your Excellency the means indicated for the future prevention of similar crimes."

From Maastricht, Mr. Janssen left for Tongeren to use some classical antiquities present in and near that city. We will not follow the traveler on this journey, because objects of that nature, found outside our duchy, do not immediately fall within our purview.

Notes

(1=1) Mr. Janssen calls the products from the Stone Age "Gallo-Germanic remains." Since 1848, however, science has advanced rapidly and there is no longer any mention of Gallo-Germanic objects from the Stone Age.

(1=2) The Catalog d'antiquités of the Guillon collection, published in 1874, does not agree with Mr. Janssen. At No 79 the maker says: "Hache toute polie, oblongue, belle, perforée d'un petit trou, peut-être naturel, provenant de Thorn." In the flint there are indeed several small pockets or veins, filled with lime dust, which, dissolved by the rainwater, form small holes. The worker of the stone may therefore have taken advantage of the natural state of his material, but such holes may also have been created, wholly or partly, by drilling. On the mechanical drilling of flint with flint cf. Dr WINKLER, Man for history, p. 233.

(1=3) See Catalog des antiquités, No 198, where this arrowhead appears as found in Putbroek near Echt, in the vicinity of Roermond. Cf. about such arrowheads and about a pear-shaped bronze lance Dr WINKLER p. 417.

(1=4) The Catalog seems to have classified these Germanic objects from the Iron Age among the antiquities of a later date. After all, at the end of the section Poterie germaine p. 21 one finds it reads: "L'age de fer, pour ce qui regarde le Limbourg avant la conquête de Romains, n'a guère de représentants qui puissent se produire." The iron bowls, mentioned above, probably find their place under No 838, der "objets en fer douteux quant à l'époque". It was found in Heibloom near Roggel. I have not seen any iron bells or clappers in the Catalogue.

(2=5) We hope to discuss these objects at the same time as the assignment ravages carried out by the late Mr. Janssen in Melenborg.

(3=6) Catalog No 411 found in the Graatheide near Sittard.

(1=7) Maybe No 414, but the Catalog notes this as coming from Heyen in Limburg

(2=8) Catalog Nos 421, 422, 423 and 424.

(1=9) Leiden 1843, with atlas.

(2=10) These objects are located at the town hall at the same time as those from Stokstraat. We hope that as soon as a permanent location is found to store our growing collections, these antiquities can also be transferred to our provincial museum.

(1=11) The sandstone coffin mentioned here comes from Schinveld. It is mentioned in the Bulletin de l'academie royale de Bruxelles, tome V, No 4 and in the Publ. etc. du Limbourg, II p. 232. The late Mr. Cudell wrote about this chest and about a few other stone chests found at Limbricht, a treatise which has not been printed. See Publ. etc. du Limb. VIII p. 302. The Schinveldse chest was built in 1869 by Jhr. Victor de Stuers and writer, found in Maastricht next to the gate of the royal atheneum, under a pile of paving stones. She was taken to the Museum of our Society, where she is now safe.

December 14, 1849 - In the municipality of Haelen, near Roermond,

there is a place called Melenborg (perhaps a corruption of Menenborg, a castle of the Menapiers), lying along the old Maas, and on the other side adjoining the old Roman road that ran from Tongeren to Nijmegen. This place, probably once a fortified Roman camp, has repeatedly attracted the attention of antiquities enthusiasts. Last November, Dr. Jansen, curator at the museum in Leiden, carried out excavations on a fairly large scale, where they found: a denarius of Antoninus Pius, several copper writing pens, pieces of earthenware with the name of the manufacturer, and other rarities. Dr Jansen's research into the local conditions has led him to determine the direction of the old Roman road and its branches at Melenborg.

Last Monday, a farmer unearthed an idol of Anubis, an Egyptian deity, in the same place, in which Mercury was worshiped in the form of a dog; its veneration was introduced into Rome in the time of the Emperors, as was that of Isis and Senapis. This statue (currently the property of Mr. Slangen, private receiver in Haelen), is

chiseled from whitish, fairly hard stone, and has 60 Dutch inches in height and 15 inches in diameter; it lay 80 to 90 inches deep in the ground.

It is remarkable that the height of Melenborg is safe from the highest Maas water, and that the objects found, such as nails, bones, lime, freshly plastered walls, etc., were all covered with a layer of sandy earth of a Dutch cubits and more thickness, which suggests that built-up land is gradually becoming higher.

January 1, 1850 [...] **Numerous objects from the stone, bronze and iron periods** have emerged from his [=Limburg] soil in the past and later. The scientific investigations to discover this date back to around 1825. These were initiated by Mr CHARLES GUILLON, notary in Roermond. A very well-to-do man, he built up a large collection of antiquities, of all kinds and from different eras, which continued until his death on November 10, 1873 was regularly supplemented. Later it was dispersed through sale, but fortunately most objects from prehistoric times have found a home in the Rijksmuseum in Leiden. [...]

April 11, 1850 [...] **From the excavations and research under the supervision** of Dr. JANSSEN, on behalf of the Government, in Melenberg, under the municipality of Halen and Beugenem, in Limburg:

Some BUILDING FRAGMENTS of cut stone, tiles of various shapes and HEAT TUBES of baked earth, fragments of BOWLS, POTS, JARS and VASES of baked earth, with and without manufacturer's marks; under those marks CAJUS F, BASSUS F OR MASCULI (or MASCUI) etc.; fragments of glass BOWLS and BOTTLES; bronze and iron TYPES and HAIR NEEDLES, BUCKLES, MANTEL HOOKS, DRILLS, fragments of SWORDS, RINGS, HOOKS, etc., silver coin (denarius) of ANTONINUS PIUS and a bronze of the 2nd gr. by FAUSTINA THE YOUNGER. [...]

April 11, 1850 MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES.

The uncertainty as to whether or not a considerable series of monuments, sent here in the latter part of the past year, should or could be regarded as a gift to the Museum, and the desire to obtain a report on the increases and changes which the collection had undergone, to make it as complete as possible, were the main reasons that caused a delay in drawing up and communicating our following report. Anyone who has taken note, even superficially and from the reports of newspapers and magazines, of the important discoveries through which the field of archeology has expanded so considerably in recent years, and who considers how indispensable the fruits of these discoveries are to filling in the numerous gaps in the history of civilization and art, but also in the collections in which the building materials of that history are preserved, - we will regret that the needs of the National Museum increasingly exceed the support funds that can be made available, exceed; that this unfavorable circumstance causes a standstill and a decline due to that standstill, the adverse consequences of which will no longer be able to be compensated later, even if the future is favorable and there is more room for resources. We had to make this remark in order to appreciate even more the acquisitions that we have once again been able to thank during the past year, both to the extraordinary compensation from the government and to the patriotic and selfless cooperation of several supporters of science. The normal social security funds do not tolerate purchases at all, and are not even sufficient to provide for the essential needs for exhibition and the intact preservation of objects; and it is therefore only from the two sources just mentioned that we were able to draw the means to preserve for the National Museum objects whose loss or distribution abroad would perhaps have been regretted by science, and through which we had the opportunity to to make the collection excel above many foreign institutions of this nature, to achieve significant increases. [...]

AEGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES.

[...] Twenty-one Coins in small bronze, including 8 of LICINIUS, 8 of CONSTANTINUS DEN GROOTE, 2 of CONSTANTINUS DEN YOUNGER and one of JULIUS CRISPUS.

March 16, 1851 **Etruscan, Greek and Roman antiquities.**

The collection of Roman objects was increased by the proceeds of the research and excavations under the supervision of the curator Dr. Janssen, undertaken on behalf of the country at Ravensbosch in the municipality of Hulsberg and Houthem (Duchy of Limburg). Among those objects, which were mostly hidden under or near the foundations or ruins of a Roman temple and other buildings, along the Roman road through the region of Maastricht op Kanten enclosed between the Rhine and the Maas, we mention fragments of sharply worked hand mills of Andernach tuff; the bronze fitting or decoration of a vase or some other piece of household furniture, in the form of a human mask; iron knives, a dagger or knife; and other less important

pieces in iron or bronze; pans of water pipes, and many fragments of coarse and fine, white, yellow, red and black earthenware, such as large vessels, jugs with two handles, pots, urns, dishes, tubs, bowls, cups, etc.

620 June 15, 1853 **BEEGDEN. Between Horn and Beegden, not far from the old Roman**
road that joined Nijmegen to Tongeren, there is a deserted, sandy hill, surrounded
by small eminences. On June 15, 1853, a worker digging in the earth in this place,
to extract gravel, found at a depth of thirteen feet, a red earthenware vase in the
625 shape of a saucer. The worker in his simplicity, took this pot and prepared food for
the young chicks in his farmyard. Three days later Mr. Teelen [Theelen?] of Horn
having learned of this singular discovery, bought the vase and recommenced the
excavation. After digging the earth for three days, a sarcophagus in sandstone was
found at the same depth, having a length of 4 feet and a width and height of about a
630 foot and a half. It was covered with a flat lid but broken in several places. Inside
the sarcophagus were found ashes, some pieces of bone, some pieces of iron, among
which were arrowheads, a small well-preserved gold ball and a finger-length stone
resembling a statuette. The inside of the coffin was square, the bottom flat and
blackened by damp ashes; on one side was managed a height in the shape of a cushion.
635 Around this stone coffin were arranged 32 terracotta vases of different shapes and
colors and superimposed symmetrically one on the other. These were the vases that
the Romans used in funeral ceremonies, jugs for libations, vases for sacrifices and
for food, urns to receive the burnt dust of the deceased. These urns, six in number,
contained ashes, the other vases were empty. We especially notice a red earthenware
640 bowl decorated with a crocodile and nine peacocks.

1 January 1856 **KESSENICH (Belgium). It is in the commune of Kessenich**
that we must look for the location of the station of Catualium, mentioned in the
Peutinger tables. This village is very well known in the diplomas of the Middle
645 Ages; it enjoyed the rights of currency, free market and tonlieu on the Maas. In 964
it was called Casallum, in 997 Caselli, in 1096 Gesselin and in 1155 Cassenic. It is
this last name that prevailed. Kessenich has the ruins of a beautiful castle, which
was formerly on the banks of the Maas, but which, because of the diversions of this
river, has moved away from it. Between the castle of Kessenich and the Roman road
that runs along the left bank of the Maas, a copper coin with the image of the
650 emperor Marcus Aurelius and a silver coin of Julian the Apostate were found in a
peat bog called het Vijgelbroeck around 1856.

1 January 1858 **ECHT. While levelling the cemetery of Echt in 1858**
a sandstone sarcophagus was unearthed near the church tower, containing, among other
655 objects, a gold coin with the image of a Roman emperor.

November 3, 1859 **GEOLOGY, INDUSTRY AND COSTUMERY, ELUCIDATED BY AN ANTIQUITIES
DISCOVERY AT MAINZ.**
On the 3rd of November, 1859, Prof. Nöggerath in Bonn, at the meeting of the Lower
660 Rhine Society for Natural Medicine and Medicine, made a statement about the
occurrence in the year 1857 in Mainz, on the Thiermarkt, in a peat layer, at the
depth of p. m. 30 feet, excavated Roman antiquities. He stated that the discovery
was also important from a geological point of view, while the director of the
Association for the Study of Rheinischer Geschichte und Alterthümer, Dr. Jos.
665 Wittmann, had shown that in the first centuries of our era an arm of the Rhine
flowed through the city of Mainz, in whose swamp the above-mentioned peat layer had
formed.
Dr. Wittmann briefly reported on this discovery in his important treatises entitled:
Chronik der niedrigsten Wasserstände des Rheines vom Jahre 70 nach Christus bis
670 1858, and Nachrichten über die im Jahre 1857-1858 im Rheinbette von der Schweiz bis
nach Holland zu Tage kommen Alterthümer und Merkwürdigkeiten etc., included in Th.
II Part 1-2 of the Zeitschrift des Vereins z. E. rhein. History and Altenthümer zu
Mainz. The same scholar had provided Prof. Nöggerath with an extensive manuscript on
this subject for use, from which the most important information was communicated by
675 Nöggerath at the aforementioned meeting. We take over what has come to the attention
of the public from that announcement (Dr. Wittmann himself will soon reveal his
handwriting) because Dr. Wittmann and Lindenschmit told us this summer during a
visit to the Mainzer Museum brought the same reports verbally and gave specimens of
some of the remains found as a gift. In the above-mentioned peat layer, a lot of
680 leatherwork had been found, most probably from a Roman shoemaker's shop, almost a
cart full of mostly used shoes and sandals, although very fragmentary, but among
which fourteen different types could still be recognized. This invaluable find for
the knowledge of Roman industry and costume will soon be published by Lindenschmit,

elucidated with plates. We therefore only point out here that the stamp of the manufacturer or shoemaker has been stamped on some fragments of the leather, as I could still read the names very clearly: L. VALE (i.e. Lucii VALERii) C. VENED (i.e. Caji VENEDI) and MONA.

Furthermore, several remains of Roman clothing were found, made of very fine wool and excellent fabric, as well as various small Roman objects and coins. The leather and woollen goods had been relatively well preserved, but the wool had taken on a dark color. The coins were minted no later than 137 AD, from which it can be concluded with probability that all these objects ended up in the swamp around that time. The common peat plants could be used well from the peat; in particular: birch bark, hazelnuts, water lentils (*Lemna major*), and of the moss species: *Hypnum splendens* (Hedwig), *Hypnum tameriscinum* (Hedw.), *Hypnum latescens* (Hedw.), *Hypnum triquetrum* (Linn.), *Anomodon curtispiculum* (Hookeri et Taylori), *Byrumbinum* (Schreberi), *Mnium roseum* (Hedw.), *Mnium undulatum* (Hedw.). Well-preserved grape vines were also found, evidence of the early wine culture on the Rhine. These are now the oldest grape vines known from the Rhine region; finally: feathers of fowl and pigeons.

From some specimen of this find, which was given as a gift by the reporter in Mainz from Dr. Wittmann and Lindenschmit, he donated the moss species to the State Herbarium, the feathers to the State Museum of Natural History, and the leatherwork to the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The leather, which had hardened and shriveled due to excessive drying, has been restored to its original softness by the care of an experienced Leiden tanner, Mr. Visser.

September 15, 1860 **Highly remarkable Roman remains FOUND IN DANISH PEAT Bogs.**

"You have longed to hear from time to time about the discoveries in the peat bogs at Sönder-Brarup, which I have already mentioned several times before. During the months of July and August, several important objects were found there; but the most important find is a round bronze plate, the size of a table plate, with a wide edge, decorated by raised sculptures in gold and silver; the sculptures alternately depict birds and dolphins and some Roman warriors in a resting position, with helmets on the head, holding a lance in one hand, while the other hand rests on a shield.

Within that edge are several medusa heads, with helmets on the head, all surrounding one medusa head in the middle of Roman origin; but it is most noteworthy that in some places of that plate small silver plates have been attached, which are decorated with animal images of the most monstrous shape, of the same kind as are found on the gold bracteates struck in Scandinavia, and on two silver cups found at Himlingöri, in Zealand. It is evident that strangers have added these ornaments of their own making to this plate, which was formerly adorned only with Roman art.

Remains of three surcoats, made of rings, have also been found; two being rings of bronze, the third of iron. Subsequently, the following were found en masse: navels of shields, points of lances, arrows and remains of broadswords, all made of iron, as well as remains of sword scabbards. Everything points to a fierce battle.

Furthermore, a complete bridle of a riding horse and a snaffle (bridon) were found, with buckles, rings and jewelry made of bronze; the long leathern wraths were completely preserved. Two silver coins of Commodus and Nero. The (wooden) handles of the lances and throwing bolts are mostly broken, but they were fortunate to find two that were completely preserved; one of 9 feet (Danish) length, the other a little longer. A stem of 2 feet 6 dm belonged to a javelin. The shields are made of wood and have an edge, only the middle part is made of bronze. But one shield is of maple wood, with an oak edge, which is attached to it with small pieces of bronze, in the shape of an S. This is the first time that shields made of different wood have been found. A leather sandal and some pieces of linen with edges were also found. There is one hollow under the glass beads, and this must therefore have been made with a glass blowing pipe; the other beads are closed. Not a day passes that one does not find pottery of various shapes, but usually broken. In the meantime, six pots have been found that were complete. Four pieces of gold have been found, in the shape of rings, which were used as currency (ring money). It still remains a mystery how all these objects ended up in the peatlands, formerly lakes. Some shields and lance handles have also been found under a thick layer of beams and undergrowth (the same as previously in Eunen). These are the discoveries of 1860; I have already told you about that of last year*). Two or three years ago I have communicated to you our archaeological investigations. In the absence of an overview of this in French, a Swiss man who spent the winter of 1859 here has published geological-archaeological studies in which he gives an account of everything that has been discovered in our country, of our system, etc. 2)."

Taarbaek, near Copenhagen, August 22, 1860.

Dr. BURMAN BECKER.

(Excerpt from a letter to Mr. EYCK VAN ZUILICHEM).

1) We also hope to be able to take a place in this soon.

2) This is Prof. Morlot in Lausanne, the editor of whose important work we have already mentioned in No. 20, dated May 21, of this weekly magazine, and about which the Revue archéologique of the 1st Aug. has begun to give a very encouraging report. We will return to this subject as soon as possible, space permitting. Ed.

January 1, 1861 **The above opinion of Mr. Soret is confirmed by a coin**

find made recently near Bitburg, Trier district. A farmer found a small, genuine Roman jug covered with a slate stone in his field, which contained 402 small ores, beginning with Maximinus Daza and ending with Constantinus II. My esteemed friend, Professor Namur, acquired the find for the local cabinet; he has described it in more detail and the relevant article will appear in the next issue of the Revue de la numismatique belge. I was allowed to inspect the coin find; it contained many rarities, for example the inscription of Constantine the Great: Soli invicto comiti and the emperor facing left with helmet, armor and lance; then several coins with the mint place MSL, which Sabatier also gives and which I interpret as Moneta Sacra Londinensis; the inscriptions claritas reipublice in various varieties were also not uncommon with Crispus and Constantinus II. I believe, however, that the find goes back far beyond the year 326; Constantine II was only 10 years old in that year, but he had already won numerous victories with his stepbrother Crispus, who died in that year. Constantine only wears the laurel crown on his very youthful, almost childlike head in two examples; both coins were struck in his birthplace of Arles; he probably received the right to wear the laurel wreath during Crispus's lifetime. However, the youngest coin in this find certainly does not go back to the year 337, the year in which Constantine the Great died and Constantine II gave up the nickname junior. [...]

March 31, 1864 **Several acquisitions were made for the FATHERLANDS antiquities.**

Together with the above-mentioned Roman objects from the estate of the late Mr. S. H. VAN DER NOORDAA, some were also taken over from the former inhabitants of our Fatherland: a very beautifully polished flint AXE, 12 dm [inch} long; a roughly worked BAL of trachyte, 4 dm in section; an URNE of baked earth, filled with burnt human bones, high 19 dm; another URNE, 18 dm high, with the fragments of a bronze HAIR NEEDLE found in it; another three URNS with burnt bones and remains of bronze RINGS, etc.; the urns of 10, 15.5 and 16 inches height; two BOWLS, 9 and 7 dm; 4 POTS of different shapes, 6.5 to 9.5 dm high; a cup-shaped BARREL, 5.5 dm high, and some fragments of pots. All these objects, with the possible exception of the WEDGE, were excavated in 1837 from the old cemetery in Deurne in Noord Brabant. Together with the pieces found at the same location and donated to the Museum in 1840 and 1841 by the late Mr. P. O. G. GUYOT, they now form a considerable whole. [...]

Some MEDIEVAL AND LATER OBJECTS, originating from the excavations for the camp in Nijmegen, a few trachyte MORTARS with PESTLES from the area around Deurne and belonging to the estate of the late Mr. S. H. VAN DER NOORDAA, which has already been mentioned several times; [...]

1 January 1865 **Antique stones in Horn**

HORNE-HEEL. In a manuscript in the library of the University of Liege, numbered 188 and written around the middle of the 17th century by Canon Henri van den Berch, King of Arms of the country of Liege, we find a curious note on antiques that existed in Hornes and Heel, and which today are for the most part in the office of Mr. Guillon.

On page 14 of this manuscript we find three drawings of antique stones. The first "which had, says van den Berch, a foot and three quarters, a half-pound less, in height, and a foot and four inches in length" has the following inscription:

MARTI
HALAMARE
SACRVM
T. DOMIT. VINDEK
O. LEG. XX. V. V
V. S. L. M.

This inscription was published, with slight differences, by Knippenbergh, Heylen, Schayes, Wolters, etc. Mr. Guillon, the notary, reads it as follows:

MARTI
HALAMARDO
SACRUM

T(itus) LEG(ionis) XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis)

V(ota) S(olvit) L(ubens) M(erito).

The second stone, whose length was "two feet, three quarters and a half pounds and the width three quarters of a foot in a pound" does not have an inscription, but it shows a vase, above which is a kind of stretched chain.

The third, whose dimensions van den Berch does not indicate, has the inscription:

MERCWRI

INGENVS

YFHIFI.

We believe we are doing the Archaeologists a favor by transcribing here the note that van den Berche placed below the first two drawings. "I pulled - he says - these two antique stones out of the originals which are masoned in the wall of the parish church of Horne, capital of the county, appenage of the county of Looz, on April 9, first of the Easter holidays 1640, and the pastor of the place told me at the time that he had several medals of the Roman emperors found at the said Horn." van den Berch then describes several Roman antiquities and medals found at Heel, a village located a league from Horn. He adds: "The most admirable is from the same place, that the village of Heel is called after Helena (1); what is known by tradition and is all the more credible since a statue of very fine white marble was found in the ground that was dug up, and is still, this April 15, 1640, lying on the real road, but very broken, because one can see the thighs from above to the ankles of the same piece of the height of six feet and a half; which is of a lady, to be veiled by her body like the Roman ladies; and they hold for certain that the rest of the statue is still in the ground. In another place he says that the priest had promised him a coin on which was written the word HEEL.

(1) The vicus Helena or Hedena does not appear to be the village of Heel as van den Berch might have us believe. Father Wastelain, places this vicus in Hesdin.

October 25, 1865 * **Maastricht, October 22. For some time now, excavations** have been continued under the municipality of Houthem (1 hour from here), to locate the remains of a Roman villa that once existed there. They have succeeded to such an extent that the division and layout of the building can be followed regularly. Many old roof tiles can be found; this day the cellar was discovered and they flatter themselves that they will also find the bathing facilities. A coin of Emperor Constantine, found on this site, sufficiently proves that this villa already existed during his reign.

December 31, 1865 **In addition, we find some details not mentioned elsewhere**

in the book North Brabant Antiquities [facsimile of 2012]:

With about thirty enthusiasts from his company he went to the heath in Deurne and soon became convinced that those eminences were burial mounds. These are unequal in height, some being only 60 inches [duim], and others 7.60 cubits [elsewhere 1.6 cubits is mentioned] high on a greater or smaller circumference according to the height. About a hundred urns will have been found, ranging from large tea cups to 100 pound heavy. [...]

In the spring of 1840 I was with the late Dr. Niermeijer, later a professor in Leiden, visited this heath and found the hills still as they were when the treasure hunting stopped! [...]

In the Rijksmuseum in Leiden, thirteen urns and side pots, by Jhr. Mr. H. de Grez in 's Hertogenbosch, four urns and side pots (1) and two urns and a side pot preserved in the cabinet of the North Brabant Society.

(1) While printing this message, I was obliged to present Mr. de Grez with those well-preserved urns as a gift to our cabinet.

January 27, 1870 **In the Courier de la Meuse is informed that when the old** church in Kessel was demolished, a slightly damaged altar of Roman origin was found under the main altar. This altar is square, high 90 and wide 55 cm, made of tuff stone, has a pedestal and a frieze, and is decorated with three bas-reliefs. The altar appears to have been dedicated to Minerva, Juno and Hercules. At least on the plane on the left one thinks one recognizes the image of Minerva; however, the head is missing, as are the statues of the two other bas-reliefs. A woman is depicted on the right side, next to a peacock; this should represent Juno. The front is decorated with a figure, which is very damaged. Because of the large shapes of the statue and the lion's skin, people thought they saw Hercules in it. - The back of the outer wears neither jewelry nor adornment. - Although one may accept the mention of this find with some reservations, it is remarkable enough to draw attention to it. The Courier de la Maas points out on this occasion that, when old churches are

demolished, and especially under the main altars, remains from the pagan period, such as statues, votive stones and altars, are often discovered, and indeed that such antiquities are often found in the walls of churches are cemented, as in the St. Servaes Church in Maastricht - and who does not think of the votive stone of Dodewaard?

February 13, 1870 **A few weeks ago the newspapers delivered a short report** about archaeological discoveries in the vicinity of a village Heulen and near the hamlet of Aalbeek in the Duchy of Limburg. Heulen probably meant Herlen or Heerlen, and the same was meant by the excavation of the foundations of a Roman house near Aalbeek, where, under the leadership of the diligent and learned chairman of the Limburg historical and archaeological society, Mr. J. Habets, the foundations of a Roman villa were brought to light in the Ravensbosch in the Land-vsn-Valkenburg, between Houthem and Schimmert. The building was destroyed by fire, was 32 m long and 14 wide; two coins were found in it, dating from the early Roman Empire. In a cellar a beautiful iron shovel with a long handle was found, 90 cm long in total. Some bases of bowls or dishes of fine red earthenware bore the stamped factory mark OF. CARAN. Among the other objects, a large bowl or basin in a grey soft stone, very cleanly chiselled, of round shape, 10 cm high and 27 in diameter, should be mentioned. The excavations, although on Dutch soil, were carried out on behalf of the Belgian government; the description of the results they yielded will probably be published in the Bulletins des Commissions royales d'art et d'archeologie. A few years ago, in 1850, excavations had already been undertaken on behalf of the Dutch government by the late curator Dr. Janssen in the same Ravensbosch, which had also led to some not unimportant discoveries. However, the further continuation of the investigations was postponed and did not take place later, because they were undertaken by the councillor Sehuermans in Liège on behalf of the Belgian government and crowned with very remarkable results. They had led to the discovery of a Belgian-Roman villa in the so-called Rondenbosch, and were depicted and described by Mr. J. Habets, in a treatise: *Exploration d'une villa Belgo-Romaine au Rondenbosch au Houthem-saint-Gerlach*, printed in the Vth volume of the *Publications de la Société historique et archéologique dans le Duché de Limbourg*. (Leidsche Ct.)

February 19, 1870 **Roman altar with restored display in Kessel** [...] from the mayor of Kessel in Limburg, reports on a Roman altar with restored display in the church of the same name.
DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN ALTAR in Kessel near Roermond.
Non sibi res se submittere rebus. TACITUS.
While demolishing the parish church of Kessel in December 1869 to build a new one in its place, an old pagan altar was discovered under the main altar of the choir. [...]

January 1, 1871 **DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN ALTAR in Kessel near Roermond.** [p. 189-199]
Non sibi res sed se submittere rebus. TACITUS.
When the parish church of Kessel was being demolished around December 1869 to build a new one in its place, an old pagan altar was discovered under the main altar of the choir.
The church of Kessel dedicated to the mystery of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin was a Gothic construction made of tuff stones from the surroundings of Maastricht; the location of the village on the banks of the Maas undoubtedly greatly facilitated the transport of these materials. It dated from the year 1460 (1). However, the foundations raised in rough stones seemed to indicate constructions that had preceded the Gothic church.
Unfortunately, at the time of our visit to Kessel, everything had been demolished and removed; it was therefore impossible for us to have any certain clue as to the form of these primitive substructures. Only we were able to observe in the large blocks taken out of the earth, fragments of Roman tiles which blocked the openings left by the irregularity of the stones of the opus incertum.
The Roman altar itself had been transported to the garden of the rectory and bore numerous marks of this poorly executed move. Before describing this curious monument let us say a word about pagan altars in general.
The altars of paganism (ara, altare) adopted different forms: there were square ones, long square ones, others round, some with several angles. They were made of stone, marble or more rarely bronze. In the temple of Babylon there was an altar, of which Herodotus speaks, made of gold on which only milk animals were sacrificed. According to Pausanias there were also altars of wood and others built of bricks or tuff. There was no fixed measure for the height of the altars. There are some that do not even reach the knee, others go up to the waist of the people who sacrifice. There

are, however, some much higher, especially among the round ones, so that one sometimes has difficulty in distinguishing them from a simple column.

These differences in elevation were observed according to Vitruvius in sacrifices: the highest altars were for Jupiter and the celestial gods, and the lowest for Vesta, the Earth and the Sea. But this distinction was not in general use.

On solemn days, these altars were decorated with garlands, giving to each god the leaves and branches of the favorite tree that was consecrated to him. At the altar of Jupiter beech leaves were used, at that of Apollo the laurel, at that of Minerva the olive tree, at the altar of Venus the myrtle, at that of Hercules the poplar, at that of Bachus the ivy, at that of Pan pine leaves. These garlands of leaves were called *verbenae*; they are generally distinguished on the altars that adorn medals, coins and ancient marbles. Virgil calls these crowns, necklaces, in the following verse: *Saepe deum nexis ornatae torquibus arae*. Similarly, temples and victims for sacrifice were decorated with flowers and branches.

It was before the altars that treaties and oaths were made, to make them more inviolable. The altars were touched while swearing, says Cicero, to make the oaths more solemn. It was before the altars that weddings were celebrated and the closest friendships were formed. Examples of this are frequent in authors. Finally, altars have been places of asyle in paganism as in Christianity.

They were generally placed in temples, in front of the statues of the divinities in whose honor they were erected. This was done, says Vitruvius, so that those who prayed and sacrificed should always have the divinities before their eyes. The altars were in the middle of the temple, or against the walls.

There were also altars outside the temples. In Rome there were many in the streets and in the public squares. It was in a public square in Athens that St. Paul encountered the altar dedicated to the unknown God (1). Altars were also erected in the *lucus* or sacred woods in front of the statue of the divinity to which the wood was dedicated, near the door of the temples and in the *impluvium* or inner courtyard of private houses. It was on the altars of this last class that the family sacrificed to the Penates.

The top of the altars was regularly provided with a cavity for lighting the fire, or for placing the fruits the offerings or the victims. In the altars for sacrifices and libations we also notice an orifice for the discharge of liquids. Several like that of Kessel were decorated with sculptures representing the gods in whose honor, or in whose temples they were erected.

The ara of Kessel is a monument mutilated towards the top and whose cavity has disappeared. But judging by its restricted proportions and the lack of an orifice for the discharge of liquids it seems to us to have served to receive offerings of fruits, or to burn incense; the table is too small to make the slightest bloody immolation there.

The altar in question forms a square column 0.90 high and 0.55 m wide. It was built in white and fine sandstone and is decorated with a base, a shaft and three bas-reliefs. The monument was erected with the intention of making three powerful Olympian divinities propitiated: Minerva, Juno and Hercules.

The artistic execution of the altar is so neat that we have no hesitation in placing its making towards the High Empire, in the first or second century of the Christian era. This beautiful execution as well as the exotic stoneware from which it was made suggest that it was not sculpted in the country. Perhaps it came from the south, by the Maas or the consular road from Paris to Tongeren and Nijmegen. The sculptures that decorate it are divided in the following order.

In the frame of the left face is represented Minerva, armed with a lance whose top end is no longer visible; with her left hand she rests her shield on a column. The goddess is adorned with a long dress down to her feet and covered with a cloak. The drapery is very neat; unfortunately the head is missing from this statue as from the two others that decorate the altar.

Our bas-relief represents the goddess emerging fully armed from the sick brain of Jupiter:

De capitis fertur sine matre paterni

Vertice cum polype prosiliisse suo. Ovid. Fast. 3, 841.

She owes to this extraordinary origin to have been honored both as a goddess of war and wisdom. Caesar and Tacitus placed Pallas or Minerva among the divinities worshiped by the Gauls and the Germans (See fig. 2 litt. A.)

On the second side is represented the queen of Olympus, Juno. She is a matron who has [?] majesty. She holds in her right hand a full *patera* for sacrificing on an altar nearby, where an offering is burning. The symbolic bird of Juno, the peacock, is next to her head. Her costume, although trailing and ample, is more modest than that of the virginal Minerva.

Juno was the sister and wife of Jupiter, as she herself states in this verse of

Virgil:

1025 *Ast ego, quae divum incedo regina, Jovisque
Et soror et conjux.* Aeneid. I, 50.

She was also the mother of Mars and Vulcan. She is represented as the queen of heaven, with a scepter in her hand. Her cult was widespread in Gaul (See fig. 2. litt. B.)

1030 The most mutilated figure is that of Hercules, which adorns the front face. The son of Jupiter and Alcmene is recognizable only by the beautiful and strong size of his naked limbs and by the skin of the Nemean lion that he holds in his left arm. It is known that this skin made Hercules invulnerable. The author of the altar of Kessel represented in his work the rest of the god after the fight.

1035 The Germans boasted, says Tacitus (1), that Hercules came to their country in the time of their fathers. They sang his praises as they went into battle, as the most valiant warrior who had ever been on earth. To Mars and Hercules they sacrificed chosen animals in preference (1). (See fig. 2 lit. C.)

1040 The fourth face of the altar is without ornaments and without inscriptions; it was probably intended to be placed against the walls of the temple or against any wall. The idea of the person who erected this monument is rather bizarre. We see the jealous Juno next to Minerva, her rival at the banquet in Paris, with Hercules to whom the same Juno had sworn immortal hatred. Did the author of the monument perhaps want to please both sides by placing opposing divinities on the same altar? In any case, he wanted to honor the principle of physical strength; which makes us believe that the dedicator was a legionary.

1045 However, it is not rare to find the figure of these divinities represented side by side on the same monument and their names formulated in the same dedication. Without leaving the charming banks of the Rhine and the Maas, we cite in support of our thesis the following altars and votive stones. At Voorburg in Holland a dedication was found to Juno the queen, to Minerva and to the Genius of the place; at Kleve one to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva; near Cologne to Juno, Hercules and Silvanus; at Andernach, to Juno, Mars and Hercules, at Kreutznach to Jupiter, Juno, Mercury, Hercules and Minerva, and another to Hercules, Juno and Fortune; at Mainz one to Juno the queen, Fortune and Minerva. (2). We even see on one of these dedications represented at the same time the three divinities of Kessel; it is the first of Kreutznach, near Bonn.

1050 In the substructures of a Roman fortress located near the same city, a Roman altar was discovered in 1863, 0.34 m high and 0.15 m, whose four faces were decorated in the following manner: first face, Juno standing, holding the scepter in her left hand and a patera in her right, at her feet the peacock. Second face, Minerva turned slightly to the side was decorated with a helmet and a long, trailing tunic, in her left hand she held the lance and in her right the shield. Third face, Mercury adorned with the *chlamis*, (the petasus was no longer recognizable), held the *caduceus* on his left arm and in his right hand the purse. Fourth face, Hercules looking to the left held in his right hand the club whose big end rested on the ground in front of his right foot, with his left he supported the lion's remains (1). As we can see, there is no lack of examples and analogies to prove that the united cult of Juno, Minerva and Hercules was quite fashionable in our countries.

1070 Another observation that we have to make on the altar of Kessel concerns the place of the find.

In Germany, France and Belgium we frequently find hidden, either under the foundations, or in the wall, or in the church itself, especially under the altars, mutilated statues, *arae*, *cippus*, votive stones or other objects of the pagan cult of our fathers. The same phenomenon can be seen in our surroundings.

1075 This is how the torso of a god Mars was discovered about ten years ago under the foundations of the old church of St. Martin in Wyck, and three votive stones in the walls of that of Horne near Roermond. A fragment of a pagan bas-relief can still be seen today in the eastern façade of the church of St. Servatius in Maastricht, and in Guichoven, in the tower, a head of a divinity.

1080 In the high altar of the church of Goyer (Jeuck) near St. Truiden, there used to be four inscriptions on marble stone relating to ex votos in honour of Hercules (1). Finally, in Nieuwerk near Venlo, a discovery similar to that of Kessel took place in 1865. An old Roman altar was found walled up in the main altar of the church containing two superimposed inscriptions, one pagan, the other Christian (2). Here is what we think of this phenomenon.

1085 Our fathers in the faith will have preserved these objects in their churches even after the old cult was abolished; if they hid them under the altar, it was to mark the triumph of Christianity over paganism; if they left them before the eyes of the faithful, they took care to mutilate the paintings and statues so that no one, 1090 deceived by appearances, would pay religious homage to a profane object.

The village of Kessel located on the course of the Maas and the military road from Tongeren to Nijmegen, was obviously known and inhabited by the Romans; its name indicates a Latin origin. We even suppose that it was one of the many fortified crossings of the Maas of which the historians of antiquity speak.

Kessel, although located in an entirely flat region free of hills, itself forms an eminence which is sheltered from the floods of the Maas. Next to the church is the ancient castle of that name placed on a kind of conical mountain having a height of about thirty meters; it is a mound of earth which has all the appearances of being artificial. One finds there by digging the ground walls in the form of terraces of four to five feet in height and whose sole purpose is to support the light and friable earth of which the cone is composed.

The castle itself is a precious example of military fortification of the Middle Ages. As it originally existed it was round; it would still be so if one removed two wings or square towers, located to the east and which have all the character of a less ancient architecture.

Kessel was in the Middle Ages an important lordship comprising eighteen villages and extending between the country of Cuyk, the Maas the country of Horne and the great marsh of Peel. The lords bore the title of count. The first Count of Kessel mentioned in history is Henry, who, with the Archbishop of Cologne, the Duke of Limburg, Henry Count of Zutphen and other lords, allied against Emperor Henry V in 1114, and who was crushed by the horses of his own troop in the battle of Andernach. We note that the chief towns of duchies, counts or lordships often succeeded military establishments of the High and Late Empire.

In the village of Kessel, Roman antiquities have been encountered on several occasions. We have reported these discoveries elsewhere (1). Let us add here that Roman medals are frequently found in a square field surrounded by pits, called De Keeskamer, and that poteries in a kind of tumulus called the Konynsbergh (2). Several modern authors believe that Ptolemy and Ammianus Marcellinus mentioned Kessel in their books.

Indeed, the geographer Ptolemy, who flourished in Alexandria around the second century of the Christian era, after having spoken of the Morini and the Ambiani of Belgium, mentions the Menapii and their city, castellum, which he places near the Maas. If this passage actually applies to Kessel, the word polis (city) used by the author must be understood in a fairly broad sense, because the castle of Kessel could only have been surrounded in Roman times by a few rare houses (1). The ancient remains there are too few to think of the location of a real city. The current center of the commune which surrounds the church and the castle, has only 370 inhabitants. Let us move on to the second mention. The Roman historian, Ammianus Marcellinus, recounts, during the reign of Julian the apostate, around the year 357, the memorable siege of a stronghold situated on the banks of the Maas, and which several modern historians, such as Knippenbergh, Slichtenhorst, d'Anville, Wolters, etc. believe to be the town of Kessel on the Maas. But we think that they are wrong and that they have been misled by the word Castellum which is found in some inaccurate editions of Ammianus and which can be taken equally as a proper name and as a generic name. From the author's text it is clear that these are two fortresses and that the route followed by General Severus was not that of Kessel, but that of Juliers and Tongeren towards Reims. Now on this route we encounter the double fortress of Maastricht, built on the two ends of the bridge over the Maas. It was a strategically important point, where the hitherto somewhat obscure account of Ammien Mercellin (2) is verified to the letter. Moreover, we will speak more at length about this siege in our notes on the discoveries of antiquities made at Maastricht.

If therefore the testimony of ancient authors concerning Kessel remains doubtful, if its ancient castle no longer presents any Roman character, the antiquities discovered there, and especially the altar that we have just described, sufficiently attribute to it an existence sixteen centuries old. Our ara is a monumental souvenir that makes us rightly suppose that this village had its pagan temple before having its Catholic church, its altar to Juno, Minerva and Hercules before having its altar to the true God of heaven. One may have succeeded the other on the same corner of land.

It would therefore be very regrettable if the altar of Kessel, carefully preserved by our ancestors, were to be lost in a private collection or in a museum. These monuments have no real value except on the very spot where they were originally erected. Remove them from there and you will have only an object of archaeological curiosity.

We therefore express the wish that Mr. Cuypers, the skilled architect of the new church of Kessel, will have this curious memory of paganism framed in the exterior wall of the church, in a buttress for example, and add a commemorative inscription, recalling the place and date of the find. This is the custom adopted for these sorts of things in France, by the Imperial Commission of Monuments.

1160 JOS. HABETS.

(1) Anno MCCCC ende LX doe waert die Kyrck van Kessel gelymert, inde doe waeren kyrckmeister Alaert van Ghoer, Geurt van Kessel geheyten Roffart, Sybrecht Schoer ende Jacob van den Bergh. Archives of the church in Kessel.

1165 (1) Acta Apost. XVII, 23. (1) De Moribus Germ. 3. (1) De Moribus Germ. 9. (2) BRAMBACH, Corpus inscription. rhen. passim.

(1) Jahrbücher von Bonn, Volumes XLVII and XLVIII, p. 92. (1) SCHUERMANS Roman inscriptions concerning Belgium p. 33. (2) BUYX, Auffindung eines römischen Votivaltars in der Kirche zu Nieuwerkerk, Gelre 1865 in 12°.

1170 (1) Public. etc. of Limb. volume II p. 247. (2) H. W. H. VAN HAEFF Handwritten notice on Kessel.

(1) Here is the passage Ptolemy II, cap. 9, according to the Latin edition of Leiden of 1618: "Post Mosam fluvium Menapii et civitas eorum castellum." (2) See LEEMANS Rom. oudheden te Maastricht p. 17.

1175 1 January 1871 **Discoveries of antiquities in the Duchy of Limburg**

HERTEN. This village formed in 963 a possession of the Duchess Gerberge, wife of Louis d'outre-mer, King of France and was called Hertra. It was given by her, with the royal palace of Meerssen, to the abbey of St-Dénis in Reims. In the hamlet of Meerhem, dependent on this village, not far from the Maas, there is a large tower, which in the Middle Ages was part of the residence of the lords of Meerhem, and which currently exists in a state of ruin. It was in the remains of this monument of ancient architecture that Mr. Wolters believed he had found the vestiges of a Roman establishment. "This tower," he said, "of square shape, was 14 meters 50 centimeters high; the thickness of the walls, measured on fragments that remain, was 3 meters 65 centimeters. We no longer have exact data on the height of this construction, the upper parts having been in a state of ruin for more than a century.

1185 The stone of which the masonry of this tower is composed is a rubble of all sorts of dimensions, interspersed with horizontal chains of a more or less dressed stone and which seems of an ochre nature; because by pulverizing it and soaking it in water, its lye provides a dark, warm color drawing on brown ochre. The mortar seems to have been a type of concrete; it is interspersed with small pebbles or gravel.

1190 A short distance from this ruin, in a communal meadow, is a tumulus rising 7 meters 50 centimeters above the uniform level of the surrounding land; it describes [...]

1195 April 14, 1872 [...] **During the course of this century, various**

sarcophagi made of sandstone have been unearthed in our diocese; thus in 1817 two at Limbricht, later one at Schinveld, in 1853 another still between Horn and Beegden, not far from the old Roman road. "One of the coffins at Limbricht is not described.

1200 The other was closed by a large stone lid and contained, besides some bones, a cinerary urn, a metal lachrymatory, a lamp and an ornament in silver cloth. The coffin was surrounded by small glass vials, tied in pairs with copper or iron wire. All this find was transported to Cologne, where it is now on display in the Wallraf Museum. The sarcophagus at Schinveld was surrounded by Roman pottery. That at Beegden, having a length of four feet, a width and a height of about a foot and a half, was covered with a flat lid, but broken in several places. [...]

October 16, 1872 **Urns, between Merselo and Overloon**

1210 Venray, October 14. Recently some gentlemen went to the heath between this place and the villages of Merselo and Overloon, with the aim of conducting scientific excavations. This first experiment was crowned with a favorable result, as four urns had already been found in a short time. This heath (the cemetery of the Marezaten?) can, when examined by experts, be an important contribution to the history of Limburg's earliest inhabitants.

1215 April 3, 1875 **The Medusa head of Blariacum.**

1220 That is the title of a speech by Mr. GAEDCHENS, professor in Jena, on December 9, held recently in Bonn on the occasion of the birthday of the founder of art history, Winckelmann, which was published as a brochure by the Association of Friends of Antiquity in Rhineland. The extensiveness of that scientific argument prevents us from including it in its entirety and we only provide, by way of extract, the description of the remarkable piece itself, of which Mr J.G. Lienders is the fortunate owner here and for whom important sums have already been offered.

1225 ... While important discoveries of ancient objects have been made several times in various places in the municipality of Maasbree, including in September 1830 in Baarlo, opposite the church, where an urn was found containing hundreds of gold and silver coins, most of which were in the hands of Mr. L. Wolters, banker in Venlo, some through the intervention of the Rev. Mr Fransen, in Ittervoort, entered the

1230 Belgian state collection - the soil of Blerick was considered barren in this respect for a long time, until in 1864 a bronze statue of Ceres came to light, which is now the property of Mr Fransen. Hubert du Guasco in Valkenburg, stood out because of her excellent work, but especially because of her white and blue enamel on the surface and on the corn ornament on the head. Of more importance, however, was the discovery towards the end of the year 1872, at the deepening of a small stream near Blerick.

1235 A worker found, at a depth of 9-10 feet, among other objects, the above-mentioned shield, which, except for some minor deteriorations at the extreme edge, is extremely well preserved. It has a diameter of 26 cm and is made of bronze, covered on the outside and inside in the fire with a strong layer of gold, which has remained completely pure and spotless. A rich image decoration, entirely executed in hammered

1240 work, covers the plain. A dense wreath of oak leaves runs along the edge, which sheds very small acorns on both sides. In the bow that ties the wreath together at the bottom, one will recognize a poppy head at first glance. Continuing chains of small round grooves, similar to a string of pearls, wind through the wreath as further adornment.

1245 In the center of the shield surface is a round expansion, 7 cm high and 0.11 wide, on which the very excellent and carefully decorated head of the Gorgon, 0.8 wide, is high and relief. The eyes are wide open, the apples are deeply extracted, but they show no trace of being filled with silver or precious stones. The nostrils stand out sharply from the cheek, the corners of the mouth are very deep, no less the side of

1250 the lower lip under the nose. From the rich hair two wings emerge from the forehead, under which the heads of two snakes can be seen, whose bodies run invisibly under the hair on either side and wind themselves in a loose snare under the chin. A third snake's head can be seen just in the middle of the Gorgo's forehead, the scaly body dwelling for a moment on a bald spot on the skull, before soon disappearing

1255 completely. The artist only needed the head to create an ornament in connection with the two other dragon heads, which is similar to the teeth of a wide open lion's mouth, which surrounds the head of Heracles. The Gorgone is surrounded by an oak wreath, which is very similar to the one described earlier. Neither the bow at the bottom nor the poppy head at the top are missing, only there was no room at the front

1260 of the expansion for the small acorns, they are small and relief and hang down along the sides, alternating with tiny twigs on which three tender blossom buds grow. On the shield surface itself, the expansion is surrounded by a very fine, flat decoration, which is formed by semi-ovoid, crenellated ornaments, from which three small twigs, each with three buds, emerge between each.

1265 The writer then enters into comparisons with such well-known objects and points out all deviations with great accuracy and expertise. He believes that the original purpose of this precious piece was not to serve as a weapon, but to all appearances, especially because of the one treatment, it was made into a piece of jewelry or a medallion.

1270 Simultaneously with this shield, seven other bronze objects were excavated at the same location, on which traces of earlier gilding are still visible. They are ornaments of horse harness in four different types.

June 25, 1875 **No. VII. ON AN ALTAR FOUND AT HORN (LIMBOURG)**

1275 (LETTER FROM MR. ROBERT MOWAT, COMMUNICATED BY MR. DE LONGPÉRIER.)

We know that the work required for the construction of an observatory at the summit of the Puy-de-Dôme has brought to light the foundations of a vast building which, in all likelihood, must be the great temple of Mercury Arverne. Gregory of Tours

1280 (Histor. Francor. I, 30) has left us a curious description of it. By a singular fate, five altars, dedicated to this same Arverne god, have been found on the Germanic borders, far from the place of his central worship. One of them, carefully studied by Mr. Robert Mowat, revealed to him in an unexpected way details on the colossal statue executed for the temple of the Arverni by the artist whose name Pliny the Elder has transmitted to us, Zenodorus. This altar, discovered in the old demolished church of

1285 Horn, currently preserved in Roermond, at Mr. Guillon's, has a quadrangular shape. It is decorated with sculptures. It bears an inscription, hitherto poorly read, and which Mr. Robert Mowat, according to a carefully executed tracing, restores in the following manner:

1290

MERCVRIO
ARVERNO
D. IRMIDIUS
AR. PO. E. V.

That is to say: Mercurio Arverno Decimus Irmidius aram posuit ex voto.

The type of the letters seems to belong to the middle of the 2nd century of our era.

1295 The interest of the monument does not reside entirely in the inscription. The bas-reliefs require description. There are three of them. On one we see a rooster perched

on top of a winged caduceus, at the foot of which is placed a purse. On another side of the altar there are two panels; at the upper corners of the first panel hangs a garland; lower down we find an object similar to a purse. The second panel, doubtless reserved for other attributes, contains nothing, as if the sculptor's work had remained unfinished. Immediately above the inscription, on the main side, there is a very damaged bas-relief. What remains of it is however sufficiently characterized for us to distinguish with certainty a figure facing forward, seated and half-naked; his *chlamys*, fixed on the left shoulder, is held by the forearm and falls in draperies on the thigh; in his left hand he holds a caduceus leaning on the defect of the shoulder; between the legs and the seat is a quadruped lying down and turned to the right, in which it is impossible not to recognize a goat. This composition is framed between two pilasters which support a triangular pediment. The figure is thus housed in a kind of niche with a pointed roof or sacellum, which simulates the sanctuary where the god was worshiped.

Mr. Mowat points out that to his knowledge this is the only example of a bas-relief representing Mercury seated; the other lapidary monuments always show him standing. There is therefore in the choice of this exceptional pose an obvious intention, which Mr. Mowat interprets in the following manner. The use of the ethnic epithet shows that the act of piety accomplished by the consecrator is mixed with the memory of the cult celebrated at the chief town of the Arverni. The sculptor executed the bas-relief on the special instructions of Irmidius or of a person who had seen the colossal statue of Mercury, and these instructions were reminiscences of what was remarkable about the statue. The attitude given to the god on the bas-relief is precisely that of this famous statue.

Pliny immortalized this masterpiece in these terms:
 "The size of all statues of this kind has been surpassed in our time by the Mercury that Zenodorus made for the Gallic city of the Arverni, at the annual price of 400,000 sesterces for the labor for ten years. Having sufficiently made his talent known there, he was summoned by Nero to Rome, where he executed the colossus intended to represent this prince. While he was working on the statue of the Arverni, he copied for Vibius Avitus, governor of the province, two cups carved by Galamis, which Germanicus Caesar, who loved them very much, had given to his tutor Cassius Silanus, uncle of Avitus." Where had the sculptor borrowed the type of the Arverni Mercury to import it into Gaul? The bas-relief of Horn offers a striking analogy with the reverse of some coins struck in Corinth and Patras under Antoninus, Marcus Aurelius, Verus, Commodus and Elagabalus. We see Mercury seated, wearing the *petasus*, the *chlamys* thrown over his left shoulder, the *caduceus* in his left hand, his right arm extended above a ram who turns his head towards him. This monetary type, apart from some accessories which change, appears to Mr. Mowat to be commemorative of a statuary group described by Pausanias in these terms:

"On the road which leads directly from Corinth to Lechaëum, we notice a seated Hermes, of bronze, at the side of which is placed a ram, because it is believed that Hermes is the god who watches particularly over the herds and makes them multiply, as the saying goes by Homer in the *Iliad*."

Now, if it is legitimate to suppose that Zenodorus' talent could only have been formed in the incomparable school of Greece, and that the artist who reproduced with such perfection the cups chiseled by Calamis had to study on site the works of the great masters before being called to Rome by Nero, we readily imagine that he could have admired in Corinth the Hermes with the ram, noticed a century later by Pausanias.

In any case, the type from which he was inspired for the statue commissioned by the Arverni is essentially Greek. In this regard, the testimony of numismatic monuments seems decisive. Greek coinage simultaneously admitted the type of Mercury standing and the type of Mercury seated, while giving preference to the latter. Roman coinage only admitted the type of Mercury standing. It seems, moreover, that the cult of this god had fallen into a sort of oblivion during the High Empire; his image was absent from Roman coinage from the time of the Republic until the time when Marcus Aurelius, who professed a particular devotion to him, restored him to honour.

January 30, 1875 - **In the municipality of Obbicht, it is reported** that during the extraction of gravel, several pots were discovered these days, which were found to be Roman funerary urns. However, due to brittleness they have partially fallen apart. The most important part of the find must be a large glass urn, made of bluish glass, filled with some bones. In addition to these objects, a piece of a lock was found, as well as some copper objects, such as a large pin, two neatly crafted handles, as one sees on chests, two rings, the wire of which is octagonal, and a hollow plate, representing a lion's head, with a copper ring in the mouth.

- 1365 Slttard, 28 Jan. [1875] In de naburige gemeente Obbicht zijn dezer dagen bij het
uithalen van kiezel eenige potten te voorschijn gekomen, die bevonden werden
Romeinsche graf-urnen te zijn. Door broosheid zijn ze echter gedeeltelijk uit
elkander gevallen. Het belangrijkste van de vondst moet zijn een grootte glazen urn,
van blaauwachtig glas, gevuld met eenige beenderen. Naast die voorwerpen werden
1370 gevonden een stuk van een slot, alsmede eenige koperen voorwerpen, zoo als: een
grootte speld, twee keurig bewerkte handvatten, gelijk men die aan kisten ziet, twee
ringen, waarvan de draad achtkantig is, en een holle plaat, voorstellende een
leeuwenhoofd, met een koperen ringetje in den muil.
- 1375 1 januari 1880 **Les trésors de monnaies romaines**
737. A Weeze (cercle de Gueldre, Geldern), en 1880, vase en terre rouge avec 5.200
petits bronzes. Sur 1.198 examinés, il y avait: 1 Gallien, 1 Consécration de Claude,
1 Licinius père, 1 Licinius fils, 113 Constantin, 294 Constantin II César, 236
Constance II César, 30 Constans César, 5 Delmatus, 46 Theodora, 52 Hélène, 262
1380 Roma, 224 Constantinopolis, 1 Populus romanus, 26 barbares. Les ateliers étaient
représentés ainsi: Trêves, 668; Lyon, 173; Arles, 78; Rome, 16; Aquilée, 1; Siscia,
8; Constantinopolis, 2; Carthage, 1; Thessalonique, 1; Héraclée, 6; indistincts,
215. L'enfouissement a eu lieu vers 337.
- 1385 August 19, 1880 **Venlo seems to be the place where the Maas**
gives back her swallowed treasures as if by preference. So we bought in 1858 an
exceptionally heavy and long sword with an artfully worked handle, between Blerick
and Venlo collected from the Maas with the fishing net. In a few years, Venlo did not
less than five gothic gold agrafs [agrafen], set with diamonds, sapphires and rubines
1390 found in the Maas. They were sold to various goldsmiths, from whose hands they came
into the possession of the late Mr. Hugo Garthe, art collector in Cologne.
These valuables, publicly auctioned in May 1877, fetched astonishing prices. –
Nowadays one can still see a valuable object at the home of Mr. Lienders, goldsmith
in Venlo, probably washed out by the Maas into an adjacent ditch. It is one gilt
1395 plate with Medusa head and further ornaments, exceptionally high in copper driven.
According to a brochure by R. Gaedechens, professor in Jena, this would be the case
piece of art, from the first century of our era, as a beautiful or parade shield have
served.
- 1400 May 29, 1883 **In the Publications de la Société d'archéologie dans le duché**
de Limbourg, Tome XVIII, is appointed by Mr. Jos. Habets talked about the search for
hidden treasures under Blerick "in which even officers from Venloo are said to have
taken part."
The captain J.A. Ort, now at the Kon. Mil. Academy active, now tells in a small book,
1405 published in Roermond under the title: "Places in Blerick where prehistoric Germanic
and Roman objects have been found," what is true about that search for hidden
treasures and who took part in it. From his letter it appears that not officers but
Mr. Franssen, pastor in Ittervoort, who had searched in vain for the Roman settlement
in Blerick, told the farmers that a treasure was hidden on the Römerheide there in a
1410 beautiful red earthen pot with a lid. People started looking and digging for it and
the pastor hoped to find that settlement without any expense or effort. That is why
he had given the peasants the description of a Roman pot of terra sigillata! Mr. Ort
further states that the pastor had damaged funerary urns broken and that, although he
was a correspondent for the former board of government advisors for memorials of
1415 national history and art, he sold the proceeds of his excavations to the museum in
Brussels.
- April 4, 1885 [...] **You have heard of the found objects and excavations**
on or near Venlo's territory by Mr. Hub. Michels, the superior Rudolph, the
1420 lieutenant Ort (now captain) and the foreman Frans Deserièrre of Dr. Boetzkes (on
Wambach) and of the Medusa shield owned by the family Lienders. So far, these
gentlemen have usually been, so to speak "practical" practitioners, the memory
naturally comes to mind our fellow townsman, Mr. Martin Jansen, who unfortunately
passed away so early had so much knowledge in the field of archeology and worked as a
1425 "theoretical" fellow worker the way of research could have delivered so much. [...]
- September 26, 1885 **In 1872 a bronze shield was excavated in Blerick and four**
objects that resembled small horseshoes. The shield, a Medusa head, came into the
hands of the late Mr. A. Lienders, goldsmith here. From the September issue of the
1430 Bulletin mensuel de numismatique et d'archéologie, by Raym. Serrure, we learn that
this shield has left the country. We can confirm that the shield has actually been in
in the hands for about a year of Mr. Frans Merkins in Cologne, a lover of

antiquities, who will keep it in his museum for the rest of his life.

- 1435 May 1, 1886 **Merovingian coins, Avranches, Ambazac, Arras, "Julinicum",**
Chemillé, Maastricht, etc.
BY R. SERRURE.
Paris, 1886, in 8°, 15 pages, 1 plate engraved by L. Dardel bears 11 coins. (Extract
from the Revue française de numismatique, 1886).
- 1440 The few thirds of a sou described by M. Serrure have the merit of being relatively
little known; they are all remarkable.
The author especially wanted to provide useful materials to the one who will have the
genius to raise the entire monument of Merovingian numismatics.
- 1445 Any Merovingian coin, says the author, presents three different points for study: the
interpretation of the place name, the localization of the type, and finally the
examination of the man's name.
It is in accordance with this method that the various coins whose names appear in the
title of the article are reviewed; we will limit ourselves to speaking of the thirds
- 1450 of a sou of Arras and Maastricht which are of particular interest to Belgian
numismatists.
The triens of Arras was found in Malmédy (Prussia) and is part of the State
collections in Brussels.
On the obverse the legend + ATRAVETES is written around a bust turned to the left.
Reverse: A//CHE + MVNDO. In the middle of a crown of pearls, a large A surmounted by
the cross which cuts the legend and placed above a sort of flower. A variety of this
coin was acquired at the sale of the Gariel collection by Mr. d'Amécourt.
ATRAVETES is indeed the Civitas Atrebatensis that the Notice des Provinces calls
Atravatum, Atrevatum, Atrobatum, Atravatum, Attrabatum etc. and from where Charles
- 1460 The Bald dates a diploma, January 23, 843, actum Atravato monasterio S. Vedasti.
The mint was obviously called ALGHEMVNDVS.
The type of the reverse of these coins is interesting, notes the author, because we
find the initial A on the meshes of Arras (1) just as the flower is found both on the
Gallic coins of the Nervio-Atrebatian region and on the Douaisian municipal deniers
- 1465 of the Middle Ages.
M. Serrure then draws attention to the triens of Maastricht that we published in the
Belgian Review of Numismatique 1885, p. 70. The author repeats, what we had pointed
out, that the coinage of the mint Thrasemundus constitutes an almost servile
imitation of the bust of the city of Rome: VRBS ROMA, engraved on certain small
- 1470 bronzes of Constantin the Great.
We can conclude that this coin is one of the oldest Merovingian coins struck in
Maastricht.
The Hague Museum has a third of a sou signed by the same minter, but the type of this
coin shows that the artistic qualities of the coin were already in decline when it
- 1475 was issued.
Another triens from Maastricht bears on the obverse: TRIECVO FIT.
Bust turned to the right; hair held back by a pearl headband extending behind the
head.
R. + GODOFRIDVS MO. Latin cross flanked by two globules and raised on a vault; the
cross is separated from the legend by a grenetis. This triens was part of the Garthe
collection; van der Chijs had not mentioned it, but the Viscount of Amécourt in his
Essay on Merovingian Numismatics Compared to the Geography of Gregory of Tours, p.
164, did not neglect to mention the Godofridus coin. The author then describes a
triens with the legend + TRIECTO FIT.
- 1485 Bust to the right. The head encircled by a pearl diadem seems devoid of hair; the
cheek is marked by a strong projection. Reverse: MACEFINVS M.
Raised cross on a step under which are arranged five globules.
This raised cross that is frequently found on Merovingian coins is, as Mr. Baron de
Chestret very judiciously notes, the origin of the perron raised in several
- 1490 localities in the country of Liège (1). This triens was also part of the Garthe
collection. Van der Ghijs gave five varieties of this coin. A similar triens found
near Utrecht is reported and drawn in a very rare small booklet that we possess. H.
Reland, the author, addresses a letter to the Count of Kniphuizen dated Utrecht,
April 20, 1713, in which he speaks of the mint MADELINVS but wrongly assumes that the
- 1495 coin was struck in Utrecht because it was found near this city and that the name of
the mint Madelinus is also found on the coins of Duurstede. This triens of Maastricht
then belonged to Doctor van Engelen of Utrecht.
Finally, Mr. Serrure describes a triens found in Huy. Legend: TRIECTO FIT.
The letters C T are linked. In the field a bust turned to the right. R./RIMOALDVS
- 1500 MONE; the letters N E are linked and the legend must be read externally. In the field

a cross, with double crosspieces, one of which is potentated. This is a notable variety of the triens reproduced by van der Ghijs under No. 14 of plate VII.

M. Serrure promises us a numismatic monograph of the Civitas Trajectensis, under the first two races. His essay proves how much this complete study will be full of attraction; this is why we hope that he will soon put his projet to execution.

G. CUMONT,

Secretary of the Belgian Royal Numismatic Society.

(1) The author says that these Arras meshes are from the 16th century. This error is probably the result of a typographical error.

(1) See Bulletin of the Liège Archaeological Society, 1885.

May 15, 1886 **Over a stipulated Arabic text from Merum.**

In a report from August 1, 1810 to the Grand Duke of Montalivet, Minister of the Commonwealth of Nations in Paris by the subprefect, A. Liger from Roermond, we read the following: (1)

"There are a quarter of a league from Roermond very close to the Maas, in the commune of Herten, hamlet of Merum, the remains of a tower of the highest antiquity where the pagan priests made sacrifices to their divinities from time to time. This tower was built on a small eminence ten paces from the Maas, but as over time, the rivers have often changed their height?? this one is now more than 700 paces away from it. This mass of stones is 60 feet long, by 50 wide; the thickness of the walls is 14 feet, it is empty in the middle, without stairs. The pagan priests used a ladder to climb it, which they burned each time after their sacrifice, so that no profane would approach the sacred ashes; at 10 paces from the wall there was found, about 50 years ago, a mound, where formerly the people placed themselves each according to their rank, to be present at this ceremony, because the right to climb onto the pyre, where the sacrifices of idols were ordinarily made, was reserved only for the sacrificing Priests. It is claimed that, a few years ago, iron bars were found there all rusty, and if this is so, they were doubtless pieces of the grill, on which they placed their offering. The ashes of this holocaust were carefully collected by the Priests and distributed to the people in the form of an amulet, to which many virtues were attributed. It is estimated that this tower may have been nearly 40 feet high, or it was finished with a platform. At a distance of 30 feet high, we find holes 2 feet wide, which cross this tower on all its faces. It is presumed that beams had been placed there, which due to their age no longer exist. The different kinds of stones, of which this tower is composed, are unequivocal signs, that it must have been built at a very distant time. These stones, which were used are for the most part large pebbles, interspersed with a few layers of tuff, as well as a kind of stone of a blackish and heavy color, which it is supposed that the ancients made themselves. This stone closely resembles vitrified coals, having the same nipples. The method of making it seems to be lost today. (1) There are still 2 or 3 other species, whose names are unknown.

"The medals bearing the effigy of the Roman emperors, which were found at the foot of the wall, attest that this tower was built by their cohorts. Among other things, a very rare stone was found, whose angles are broken, which has lost some of its polish, but whose engraving has been very well preserved. Its size can be equal to that of the fingernail. The connoisseurs of fine stone engraving in Antwerp and Amsterdam attest that it is superiorly engraved, those in Amsterdam have even subjected it to the test of fire. It is a hard and precious stone, which cuts glass, like diamonds, but which does not have its water. They unanimously assured that the manner of engraving on hard stone today does not approach that of the past. Not knowing the oriental languages, we do not know whether the engraving is in Hebrew or Chaldean characters, or whether they are Egyptian hieroglyphs. However, we have seen in a small book, which is found in the cabinet of curiosities of the Jesuits in Cologne and which treats of ancient medals, the same imprint with the words Divo Esculapio. Everyone who has studied mythology knows that this God was dedicated to medicine. His cult was in vogue 400 years before the birth of Jesus Christ; thus it is conjectured that this tower could well have been dedicated to the God of Medicine. All the excavations and searches that were made, a few years ago on the side of the East where the ancients usually began their monuments, have been fruitless. "It was however on this side that they hid some coins to indicate to posterity the date of their enterprises, as well as the reign of their leaders. The present state of this tower offers nothing remarkable to the eyes of a curious person, except that a mine or deformed mass of stones. However, one can still discover on its summit with the aid of a telescope 50 towers of towns or villages, despite the fact that about 40 years ago one twentieth of its height was removed. The workers who worked to demolish this part unanimously agree that cement is harder to detach than stone. It is

- presumed that only an 8th part of its whole remains, its name today is Borgh or castle, although it could never have served as a place of defense.
- This communication was provided to the sub-prefect of the department of Lower Maas by Mr. Petit from Roermond, owner of the above-mentioned old tower. To what extent all the scholarly fuss that embellishes this report applies here, I leave it to the reader to judge. I only add that this scholarship dates from a time when every citizen recognized the right and freedom to judge all things, even those of which he had only a small understanding. I will therefore pass over Mr. Petit's scientific observations in silence and confine myself to a word about the seal itself and about the ancient deposit of Merum, next to which it is said to have been found.
- The tower of Merum, which Petit describes as a pagan place of sacrifice and in which Mr Wolters also recognizes a Roman monument, is certainly not of Roman [Catholic?] origin, at least in the form it is in today. One finds pieces of *tegulae* and *imbrices* built here and there between the joints of the stones, but such remains from the Roman era were also found in the tower of the Romanesque church of Herten, which was demolished in 1880, and in a number of constructions from the Middle Ages, still present in our province. Our ancestors, feeling a lack of building materials, often resorted to the ruined Roman foundations in the area, which they plundered for the benefit of their new constructions.
- Such constructions therefore indicate the presence of Roman constructions in the area, but less so their presence on site itself. The old castle of Merum is certainly a medieval tower, belonging to the house of the families of Merum, Cuyck [Cuyk] and Heinsberg [Germany], who were lords of Merum and Dalenbroeck. The neighboring hill, which was labeled with the grand name of Drususberg by the classically thinking Mr Petit and which has now been excavated, also bore no particular traces of Roman origin. Bones of cattle and medieval pottery shards were found there, which we saw and examined.
- The view of Mr. Petit, followed by Wolters in his booklet entitled: Notice sur quelques débris de constructions romaines à Herten, may have influenced Mr. and not to look for the Roman poststation Mederiacum in Melick. But he remains indebted for certain proof of his feelings. We think it will be difficult to find a Roman highway from Thudder [Tüddern?] to Merum.
- In our days of general writing about antiquities, there is a real mania to place roads and ramparts, just like that, in books and on maps, without first providing the slightest proof of the origins of these roads and ramparts from Roman or later Frankish period. Our hirers from the Rhine Province are very strong in that area; to follow them one must truly have a faith that moves mountains.
- In the report of August 1 sent to the Montalivet in 1819 [or 1810?], there were impressions of the above-mentioned seal stone, which Mr Petit considered extremely remarkable, and two of which are still in the State Archives in Maastricht.
- We had one of these prints examined through our faithful friend G. Leemans, director of the National Museum of Archeology in Leiden. Professor De Goeje, our learned orientalist, explained the inscription in pure Arabic and read: Bismallah, that is in the name of Allah! This stone is also not Roman, but more likely midcentury. How it arrived at Merum, from Spain, from Palestine or from the East, is a mystery.
- Jos. HABETS.
- (1) The minute of this letter is in the State Archives in Maastricht.
(1) The black bricks indicated here are simply cutting stones from quarries in the Liège region.
- October 15, 1892 **Roman Antiquities in Venlo.**
By H. Michels.
- In many places in and around Venlo and Tegelen, objects of Germanic, Roman and Frankish origin have been found during excavations.
- In the year 1817, in the Vleeschstraat, at a depth of 7 or 8 feet, underground, a stone tomb was found, surrounded by clay, lying on a layer of pebbles; the length was 6½, the width 4 feet. The egg-shaped carved depth was 6 feet long and 3½ wide, with a very fitting lid. This lid was a table hewn from hard limestone, 4 inches thick, ground very smooth on the inside and on the edge. The sarcophagus (stone coffin) was made of tuff.
- This sarcophagus stood in a direction from the East to the West. Close to the east side was another metal urn that, at its widest, was 11 inches high and 15 in diameter. The shape was very simple, the opening 6 inches wide, and was closed by a lid.
- In the sarcophagus were found some pieces of white thin glass, probably from a so-called tear glass, some earth and remains of burnt bones, among which pieces of the

skull and bones were clearly visible. Also in the urn was something resembling burnt bones, but in much smaller pieces.

1640 The sarcophagus was without inscription. However, around the urn one saw Runic writing, which was not deeply and irregularly printed in the metal, and for this reason, as well as because of the dents in the urn, is illegible. In the vicinity of the grave site another flint of 12 to 15 inches in length and 6 inches in thickness was found.

1645 Frankish jars have been found on the Groenmarkt, corner of Peperstraat, on the Lomstraat, outside the Geldersche or St. Helenapoort and in the sandy road to Genooy, behind St. Urbanus.

1650 Outside the Cologne [Keulsepoort] or Sint Laurentius Gate there is a valley that extends from the German border to the former building farm "het Rozenhuisje" in a westerly direction to the Maas. The building farm "de Lindeboom" and the two water mills "de Bovenste Houtmolen" and the "Onderste Houtmolen" are located in this valley, after which it loses itself in the plain. The Cedron stream originates about 100 meters below "de Lindenboom"; it takes its course through the ponds of the two mills and further through the plain to the city, through which it passes and after which it pours into the Maas.

1655 In the last century, the Bovenste Houtmolen was inhabited by a Holthuysen family, descendants of which still live in Venlo. On August 16, 1758, Gerardus Holthuysen, miller of the Bovenste Houtmolen, was buried in the cemetery of the St. Martinus Church. In 1760 it was still occupied by this family. One evening in the year 1760, the servant went to the attic with a lantern to get straw, and fell with it, so that 1660 the straw caught fire. Instead of putting out this fire with one hand, he went downstairs to fetch water; When we returned, it was too late, the attic was already in full flame and everything, the mill with its house, barn and stable, burned to the ground.

1665 This mill and yard then belonged to the Highly Born Mr. F. G. Ruys, lord of the seigneurie of Blerick and Ordinary of the Sovereign Court by Her High Powered Lords of the States General of the United Netherlands, and to his two daughters Catharina and Clara Ruys, who inherited her five years later (the mill was no longer built) to Michael Michels and his wife Gertrudis Muggen, February 7, 1765; she rebuilt that same year. The grandson of these couples sold the mill again in 1848.

1670 The Onderste Houtmolen [=Lower Wood Mill] appears to have been built on the foundations of an ancient Roman or Frankish castle, at least judging from the foundations, and later destroyed by fire. There also seems to have been a mill here at the time of the Franks, a few steps from the house, judging by the fragments of millstones, which were found here with a large number of Frankish shards and pots

1675 mixed with wood ash. The present building was built in the year 1626. (1) The Onderste Houtmolen is now owned by WelEd. gentlemen Eugenius Gollaes, in Venlo, and Julius Freiherr Von Francken in Pont.

The valley described here with farms and mills, with ponds, streams, gardens, meadows, orchards and wildernesses, planted with centuries-old oaks, pines and other 1680 trees, surrounded by mountains and hills, is the most beautiful and, so to speak, "romantic" place in the whole of Venlo.

Various Germanic, Roman and Frankish antiquities have been found in and around this valley and there are still works from them. At the beginning of this valley, on the south side, there is a high earthen wall called "De Landweer", showing part of the 1685 trenches of a Roman camp, which seems to have been located here. For several years, Mr H. Justen van Venlo managed to discover a Roman cemetery here. On the northwest side of this camp there is a Germanic cemetery called Siberie; twenty-eight large and small burial mounds are still very clearly visible. I have dug up urns from some of these hills. Only from one was I able to bring out the urn in its entirety, the 1690 others were all broken by the roots of the trees that once stood here.

From the above-mentioned camp a broad Roman road runs through the middle of the mentioned cemetery, first in a northern direction to the end of the cemetery, and then in an eastern direction to just below the origin of the Cedron stream, straight 1695 through the aforementioned valley, where in the middle of a swampy area there is a dike has been constructed to continue the said road; This dike bears the name of Count Hendrik's dike.

The legend says: a Count Hendrik had crossed here with his army and had the war chest hidden in this dike. In the past, a light would have burned in this place every evening.

1700 Furthermore, this road runs along a dug-out mountain in the direction of Straelen, where it loses itself in the plain.

(1) At the beginning of the 17th century, perhaps immediately after its reconstruction in 1626, the Onderste Houtmolen was inhabited by the miller Nicolaas

- 1705 Stoffels, from Broekhuizen, after whom this mill was also called the Stoffelsmolen. He was married to Maria Janssen from Venlo, who remarried after the death of her husband to the "magister" Hendrik Sieberz. From the first marriage there were 2 sons and a daughter, of which the eldest Godefridus became a priest; he was S. Theol. doctor, at the Sticht van den H. Severinus and fits of the church of St. Paul in
- 1710 Cologne, where he died in 1675; his mother followed him to Cologne and died there a few years earlier. He adopted the name of Molanus in memory of his father's profession, which was followed by all his family. After the death of this Nicolaas Stoffels, who had no son who could succeed him in the trade, because the youngest son was a monk in the St. Nicholas Monastery in
- 1715 Dick, the Stoffels family, now called Molanus, left this mill and was taken over by a niece of his wife, Gertrudis Janssen, daughter of Albertus Janssen; she was married to Leonardus Engelen, and the mill now received the nickname of Engelenmolen, by which it is still generally known today. This family has continued to inhabit it to this day, with only an interruption of ten years, from 1856 to
- 1720 1866. At the beginning of this century there were only two male descendants of the family, of which the eldest continued to inhabit the Onderste-Houtmolen or Engelenmolen. His marriage to Maria Dorothea Franssen, van Steyl, municipality of Tegelen, produced two daughters; the youngest died in infancy; the eldest, Maria Engelen, married
- 1725 Petrus Hubertus Michels. Children from this marriage still live in this mill.
- November 15, 1892 **Roman Antiquities in Venlo.**
by H. Michels.
III.
- 1730 § III. Germanic objects.
1. Germanic urn, opening 0.18, height 0.18, found in Siberia, near 't Jammerdal, municipality of Venlo, in 1879.
2. Germanic urn, opening 0.08, height 0.08, found in the Hunnenberg in Nijmegen.
3. Germanic jug, opening 0.13, height 0.07, found in the Hunnenberg in Nijmegen.
- 1735 4. Germanic pot, opening 0.09, height 0.09, found in the Hunnenberg in Nijmegen.
- § IV. Roman objects.
1. A cup, height 0.07, opening 0.05, found in Andernach on the Rhine. 2. Fragm. amphora, height 0.12, found at Kelheim on the Danube.
- 1740 3. Ointment jar, found at Nijmegen.
4. Patella in white earth, found at Nijmegen.
5. Ointment jar in white earth, found at Nijmegen.
6. Jar (quick), found in white earth at Montfort, height 0.13.
7. Jar in white earth, with an ear, height 0.12, found at Montfort.
- 1745 8. Two small crucibles, found in the Maas at Blerick.
9. Two small jars in white earth, with an ear, height 0.19, found in Neuss, in 1876.
10. A small jar with an ear, in white earth, height 0.12, found at the St. Severinuspoort in Cologne, in 1874.
11. A small jar with an ear, in white earth, height 0.12, with round thick belly, without foot and long neck, height 0.18, found in Cologne.
- 1750 12. A small jar with an ear, in white earth, height 0.27, found in Nijmegen.
13. A small jar with an ear, in white earth, height 0.20, found in Nijmegen.
14. A small jar with an ear, in white earth, height 0.19, found in Nijmegen.
15. Two small jars with an ear, in white earth, height 0.11, found in Nijmegen. 16.
- 1755 Two small jars with a handle, in white earth, height 0.10, found in Nijmegen.
17. A small jar with two handles (amphora), in white earth, height 0.17, found in Nijmegen.
18. A small jar with a handle and a spout, in white earth, height 0.18, found in Nijmegen.
- 1760 19. Vase in black dough with angular belly, height 0.17, opening 0.12, found in Nijmegen.
20. A small vase with depressed walls in light brown earth, height 0.10, opening 0.06, found in Nijmegen.
21. A purse-shaped bottle (gutta), height 0.18, found in Crefelt.
- 1765 22. Terra Samica.
a. A patella, saucer, width 0.09.
b. A patella, width 0.16. with the mark SEVERUS de grafecto BVGO.
c. A patella, width 0.17, mark illegible.
d. Small bowl, width 0.12, height 0.07, all found in Nijmegen.
- 1770 23. Large milk jug with spout, in ordinary earth, width 0.26, height 0.07, found in Nijmegen.
24. A lamp in red earth, found in Gennep on the Maas.

25. A lamp in black earth, found in Crefeld.
 26. Two lamps in ordinary earth, found in Nijmegen.
 1775 27. A lamp in black earth, found in Kesseleyck.
 28. A patella or small bowl, width 0.23, height 0.05, found in Kesseleyck.
 29. A salt cellar of white earth, height 0.04, width 0.07, found in Venlo. 30. Vase in ordinary earth, height 0.18, opening 0.25, found in the previously described pottery in Venlo, in 1879.
 1780 31. Vase in ordinary earth, with flat edge, height 0.18, opening with the edge measured 0.16, found in the pottery in Venlo, in 1879.
 32. Vase in ordinary earth, height 0.19, width 0.14, found in the pottery in Venlo, in 1879.
 1785 33. Vase in ordinary earth, height 0.16, width 0.12, with curved edge, found as furrows.
 34. Vase in ordinary earth, decorated with small and large circles, height 0.15, width 0.09, found as furrows.
 35. Vase in ordinary earth, decorated with double row of circles, height 0.14, width 0.08, found as furrows. 36. Vase in ordinary earth, decorated with a double row of diamonds, high 0.14, wide 0.08, found as furrows.
 1790 37. Lid with flat knob, in ordinary earth, wide 0.13 found as furrows.
 38. Two fibulas, in copper, one with decorations, found in Nijmegen.
 39. Needle in copper, found in Crefeld.
 40. Writing styluses and other objects in copper, found in Nijmegen.
 1795 41. Two copper coins of Emperor Constantine, found on the Lichtenberg near Kaldenkirchen, in 1889).
 42. A silver coin of Domitian, found in Baarlo, in 1840.
 43. Roman spindle whorls and corals, found in Nijmegen.
 44. A coral of red earth, found at the ruins of the old Carthage in Africa.
 1800 § V. Frankish objects.
 1. A large number of pearls, found in Nijmegen.
 2. An urn in red-greyish earth, height 0.07, opening 0.08, found in Andernach aan den Rijn.
 1805 3. Two spherical urns or pots, black-grey, height 0.10 opening 0.08, found just behind the Onderste Houtmolen in Venlo, in 1873.
 4. A spherical urn or pot, black-grey, height 0.13, opening 0.09, found as furrows.
 5. A spherical urn or pot with spout, black-grey, height 0.15, opening 0.14, found as furrows.
 1810 6. A beautiful jug in grey earth, with an ear, height 0.25, opening 0.10, found as furrows.
 § VI. Medieval objects.
 1. A large number of jugs, jars and pots, some of which are very beautiful in shape, from the 9th to the 16th century, in nature and and just plain stoneware.
 1815 2. A number of old earthen pipes, including one with the coat of arms of Venlo and its motto: "Festina lente caute fac omnia mente" around it.
 December 2, 1905 – **A lost art treasure recovered.**
 1820 – At the end of the year 1872, a worker in Blerick near Venlo found a Roman bronze shield with some horse harness while deepening a stream. These goods came into the possession of Mr Lienders in Venlo. Prof. Gaedechens from Jena gave a lecture about that shield in Bonn on the feast of Winckelmann's birthday on December 9. 1874, and since then "das Medusenhaupt von Blariacum" has acquired a very general reputation
 1825 in the world of art connoisseurs and art lovers. The present Blerick was without doubt the Blariacum from Roman times, which appears on Peutinger's map. The shield, gilded bronze was probably a showpiece weapon. The name shield is also probably not entirely correct in that it is more a so-called umbo, the decoration of a shield on the outer side, than a shield itself. This umbo (navel) now has a diameter of 26 cm.
 1830 A circle of oak leaves runs around it, within which there is again a similar wreath, which encloses the Medusa or Gorgo's head. This was from ancient times the most famous sign for averting hostile forces and as such was of course very peculiar. Our fellow countryman, Prof. Six wrote a commendable monograph about the Gorgo, his dissertation. Originally this Gorgo head had a hideous appearance; they gave her tusks and a stuck out tongue. Blerick's Gorgo is one in the style of later Greek art. Her character is expressed in human forms. She has a great reputation in art history. It probably dates from the first century AD. Not long after, the work of art crossed borders. We heard that our Queen Sophie tried to keep it for our country at the time, but in vain. The chance of ever getting it back became smaller and
 1840 smaller, especially because the prices for such things are becoming higher and

higher.

It appeared at the Dusseldorfer exhibition and now it has appeared once at an auction in Cologne. It has now been purchased there by Mr G.M. Kam, in Nijmegen, - the same who gave his highly important museum as a gift to the State, to be accepted after his death. The piece is now returning to our country and, humanly speaking, will never leave again. This work of art, found on Dutch soil, does not go to the prairies of North America or the unknown country house of a so-called art-loving Englishman. At the same time as the umbo, Mr. Kam also acquired the horse harness found there. He knows too well what such "Gesammtfunde" mean. I will say nothing more about the merits of Mr. Kam. This writes Mr. A.E.J. Holwerda, professor-director of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, in the "N.R.Ct."

April 30, 1910 **Limburg Sagas and Legends.**

SCHATBERG, KRONENBERG, DE MEIR AND SCHENKENBURG UNDER SEVENUM.

A truly old-fashioned, prosperous farming village, where the farmers have still retained their old customs, where people still spin in the winter, where the housewives still take their yarn to the weaver, where the men still prefer Manchester to new-fangled cloth for the spacious clothes and the weddings are still celebrated with old songs and dinner parties without a brasserie... that is Sevenum, in the middle of Limburg, located next to the Peel. There you can still see houses and stables, large and spacious, lying on their own property in the orchard and the tinware, copperware, the old grandfather clock, the folding table, and the large oak chests are in the front house. And at exactly twelve o'clock in the afternoon, the simple lunch is steaming on the table, while in the following summer everything goes "ungeren" or naps.

But the farmer is not that stupid unless he has faithfully followed and kept up with the progress of agriculture, dairy production and chicken breeding; he is well informed about the use of artificial fertilizers and the cooperative. That is why we can speak of Sevenum, just like of Horst and Maasbree, as a prosperous municipality. But the old colloquialism, the dialect, the old songs, the singing ways of the faithful king's son, of the young man who seemed neither susceptible to sweetness nor love and yet finally succumbed, the old local legends, they still live on. Where the ground is generally so flat, a hill quickly becomes a mountain and that is why one of the strangely colored, white-yellow sand dunes on the Peel is called the Schatberg. It is higher than the surrounding ones. On the left lie deep swamps, swamps along the edges of which pine forests grow abundantly.

On the right, the seemingly endless piece of Peel to be developed, which has already been plowed and will soon be brought into cultivation. Here and there in the Peel, far away from us, between a group of trees like a miniature oasis in the brown-black plain, an old dilapidated sheepfold, dating from the time when sheep farming was still profitable.

Further on the horizon, forests, towers, factory chimneys, a derrick, which announce the slowly coming conversion of the Peel into inhabited and profitable territory. We are sitting on the Schatberg, and we are thinking that if a farmer sees us now, he will mutter to himself: "They will search, but they will not find anything". Because a lot has been sought in this Schatberg, Treasure Mountain, as evidenced by the grooves in the flanks and the holes in the top.

An officer of high rank is buried here, he has his golden sword next to him and a treasure that he had to keep. He died here, it is not known how, but was buried nearby by his followers. However, these too followed him in death. And so he lies here waiting. One person tells you that it was a Roman, another that it was a Spaniard, but everyone has dug in the Treasure Mountain at some point and both old and young have climbed the wonder hill. However, the treasure has not yet been found any more than the "Crown" in the hamlet of Kronenberg, which you can see a little further to the right of Horst, where traces of old fastenings, wall work, broken crockery and pottery were found. Whatever the case, the common opinion among the people is that strange things happened on the Schatberg and Kronenberg, which still await explanation.

In ancient times, an old pastor lived on the "Meir", a square piece of land surrounded by ramparts and canals, where fragments of walls can still be found. He came to the village every now and then and had an old gray, a wonderful beast. In the evening his owner mounted the saddle and said: "To the Lake in one go." The Gray rose and ran through the air into the lake. Why, who knows?

The old Schenkenweg, near the village, now disappeared, is also seen as a ghost place. The Schenken van Nijdeggen have a history interwoven with many changes. Their Schenkenburg castle sometimes saw strange things. The last of the Schencken, who carried a knife and a sword, was heavily drinking and every day passed the chapel of St. Anthony, founded by his ancestors. Each time he passed by mockingly, until one

1910 morning after a revel, he was found dead in the chapel. In his last hour he still
visited Saint Anthony. When the castle was still in existence, the drawbridge had to
be raised every evening at nine o'clock. If anyone forgot, a large black dog came to
lie on the bridge and repelled everyone with a fiery claw and eyes. Because the
'headless horse' was also around, the castle was demolished, but the meadow that was
created for it is still spoiled and only thistles and thorns grow there.

1915 B.