

## TECHNICAL

### NOTE

**Title :** Cockerill château in Seraing. *Testimony to a two hundred-year-old industrial adventure*

**Authors :** Christine RENARDY

with Benoît JULY and Bureaux d'architecture Henry Garcia and Reichen et Robert & Associés

**Edition location and date :** Namur, 2017

**Collection :** Monographies, 21

**Format :** 25,2 x 30,2 cm

**Pages :** 436 pages

**Illustration :** +/- 400

**ISBN :** 978-2-87522-187-2

**Legal deposit :** D/2017/10.015/6

**Price :** 39 €

On 29 January 1817, two centuries ago, John Cockerill bought the Château de Seraing from William I, King of the Netherlands. This was the beginning of an industrial adventure that continues to the present day. John Cockerill did not buy just any building. It was the former summer residence of the Prince-Bishops of Liège, built on the site of a mediaeval castle mentioned in 1084. The first chapters of this book invite you to discover the history of these buildings. They are duly completed with architectural documentation of the superb restoration of the château, and of the phase of renovation of the urban center of Seraing. The following chapters deal with the extraordinary history of the establishments founded by Cockerill up to the year 2002, when Bernard Serin purchased the subsidiary of the Usinor Group, "Cockerill Mechanical Industries", renamed in 2004 "Cockerill Maintenance & Ingénierie" – CMI –, specialised in engineering and maintenance. In a word, this is a richly illustrated reference work, and a worthy celebration of this bicentenary!

## AUTHORS

Christine RENARDY is Doctor in History from the University of Liège.

Jean MONTOULIEU is journalist.

## CONTACT

Agence wallonne du Patrimoine (AWaP).

Direction de la promotion – Service diffusion

Rue du Moulin de Meuse, 4 - B-5000 Namur (Beez)

**E.** [publication@awap.be](mailto:publication@awap.be)

**T.** +(0)81 230 703

## VENTE

- en librairie ;
- par mail à l'adresse [publication@awap.be](mailto:publication@awap.be) ;
- par téléphone au +(0)81 230 703.



## CONTENT

**Preface | Foreword | Introduction | Acknowledgements**

### The Middle Ages

Historical and geographical background | Avroy and the episcopal mensa | The militarisation of the Liège region | Protection of a Meuse river crossing | The chapel, an essential component of a fortified residence | From 1155 to the 14th century, a few scattered references

### From the end of the Middle Ages to Modern Times

The 15th-century disaster... and then a well-managed revival | The fortresses of Cardinal Éard de la Marck, Bishop of Liège | Seraing castle in the 15th and 16th centuries | The church from the 15th to the 18th century | A well-cultivated kitchen garden

### The 18th Century: A Sumptuous Era

The metamorphosis begins with GeorgesLouis de Berghes (1724-1743) | John-Theodore of Bavaria (1744-1763) follows suit | 1764-1784: a transitional bishop, Charles-Nicolas d'Oultremont, was followed by a benefactor, FrançoisCharles de Velbrück | César-ConstantinFrançois de Hoensbroeck (1784-1792) and the decline following the French annexation | An inevitable but short-lived decline at the time of the fall of the *Ancien Régime*

### Age-old knowhow and imported innovation

Coal, a discovery from Liège ironworking: a speciality that became a speciality of Liège | The metallurgical industry under the French regime | And the Cockerill family arrived... | *The listing of Seraing château and its site*

### From a stone to an inverted brick

Initial studies | The Memorial Rooms and the Vestibule: the memory of places | The 1900 reception room: luminous ideas | *The 1900 lounge fireplace* | The Princes' Room: combining splendour with simplicity | The Buffet Room: now an historical reserve | The Great Gallery comes back to life | *Polychromy and arsenite* | The Beckers Reception Room: marble and light | The Hall of Honour: grandeur and imagination | The Cockerill Reception Room keeps its secrets | The Council Room sees pink | The unlisted areas | The covered way | The Orangery: dream of the future | Note | The spirit of openness | *The transparency of the Orangery and its transparencies* | Tours and detours in the "external areas" | The esplanade: a balance between openness and limits | The Courtyard of Honour: traces and renovation | For a garden of delights | The Park retains the nobility of its origins | New perspectives

### John Cockerill in Seraing

The industrial policy of William I of Orange-Nassau | A judicious choice: Seraing château | John Cockerill's Works prosper in Seraing | John Cockerill and the Kingdom of Belgium | *The Monuments dedicated to John Cockerill*

### The Société anonyme pour l'Exploitation des Établissements John Cockerill

The founder's death | The founding of the *Société anonyme pour l'Exploitation des Établissements John Cockerill* (1842-1955) | Outstanding achievements at a crucial time | And new markets... | Investments to improve machinery | As a conclusion: the official statistics and the *"Atlas du Portefeuille de John Cockerill"*

### Cockerill, an international showcase

Modernisation of the Cockerill company from 1863 to 1914 | At the end of the 19th century, opening to the world | Cockerill, kingpin of the great exhibitions in Belgium

### The twentieth century

Cockerill: the relaunch in the wake of 1914-1918 | Sluggishness in the face of German competition during the interwar years | The horizontal integration period | The crisis of the last twenty years of the 20th century | An optimistic epilogue

### From the fold of Cockerill-Sambre to autonomy (1982-2002)

A steel industry giant | A dwarf in mechanics | The failed sale to Fives-Lille | The constitution of Newco | The lunch at La Villa Lorraine | The agreement of the banks and the Walloons

### From relaunching to overheating (2002-2008)

Strengthening governance | The development of maintenance activities | Enlargement of the technology portfolio *CMI goes to the giant Tata (Le Soir, 7 november 2008)* | *The gate of India opens for CMI (L'Echo, 8 november 2008)* | Overheating

### From the crisis to new opportunities (2008-2017)

The effects of the 2008 crisis | Locomotives CMI Energy: the new solar market CMI Defence: the breakthrough | CMI environment: new horizons A group turned towards the future more than ever before

**Notes | Bibliography**