

**Belgium has been
hiding a valuable
treasure for 600 years.**



Explore the 15th century in our region through the images, stories and characters from the Library of the Dukes of Burgundy!

Six centuries ago, Brussels belonged to the rich and powerful Dukes of Burgundy. Skilled politicians and cultured patrons, they established a stirring treasure: a unique and fascinating collection of manuscripts.

These masterpieces, which have survived the ravages of time and of history, have been looked after for you by KBR. It is now opening its vaults to share the highlights of this fantastic collection via its new museum.



Philip the Bold, John the Fearless, Philip the Good, Charles the Bold, Mary of Burgundy and Philip the Fair, sovereigns with stranger-than-fiction stories, invited the greatest artists of their time to their court. These days, everyone knows about Jan Van Eyck and Rogier van der Weyden, but the miniature artists, responsible for producing illuminated manuscripts, are every bit as impressive. So much so that some say that the finest Flemish Primitive paintings can perhaps be found in manuscripts.

Their work has withstood the test of time and will reveal to you the illuminated face of the Burgundian Golden Age, at the crossroads between the Middle Ages and Modern Times.



Picture: Detail from Hell by Jean le Tavernier in the *Traité des quatre dernières choses* (KBR, ms. 11129)



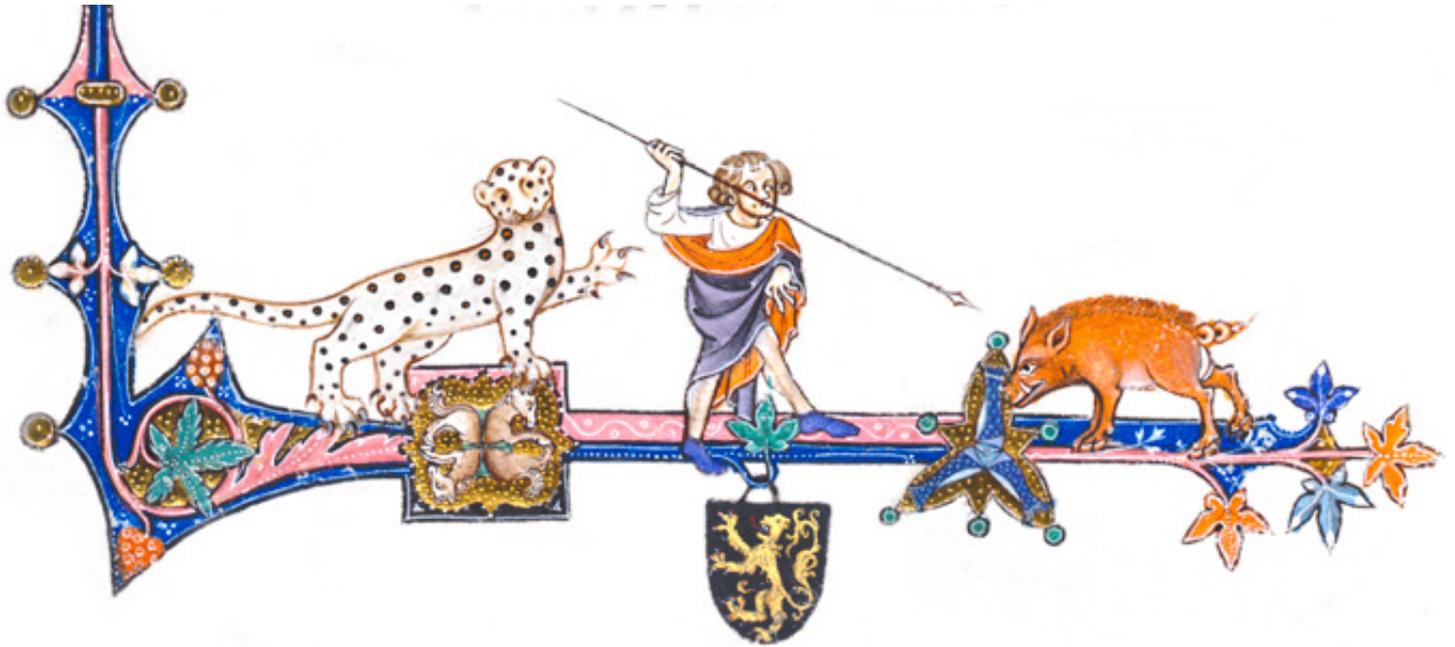
Copying is not a crime

Before the printing press was invented, it was in fact the only way texts could be passed on: by patiently copying them with a goose quill on parchment. 50 sheepskins, months of work, litres of ink, quills, stones and leather were sometimes needed to create just one manuscript.

We will tell you the history of these books and the era that produced them. You will find out why you shouldn't trust rabbits, in

what way the Middle Ages were hilarious, how mermaids were spotted in Brussels, and discover how history books sometimes lie.

We will also talk about the men and women who wrote, copied, decorated and read these manuscripts.



Exploring original documents

How can you get anything from a book, which is designed to be leafed through, when it is displayed in a showcase, with just two pages visible? Modern technology now allows us to browse a whole book, like Philip the Good sitting at his table, analysing every detail. Some of the characters might even start dancing on the ceiling, or whispering stories in your ear.

Paintings, altarpieces, sculptures, weapons and everyday objects loaned by major museums will also echo the manuscripts on display, giving them more depth and volume.

Always with the same purpose: to offer you the valuable opportunity of exploring these unique documents.

A page is turned every 3 months

Did you know that a manuscript is too fragile to be on display all the time? In order to protect them, we will therefore change the exhibits four times a year. A real treat for visitors: whenever you come, you can discover something new.

Activities will be put on according to these quarterly changes.



Picture: Philip the Good receiving his manuscript.
Detail from opening miniature of the *Chroniques de Hainaut* (KBR, ms. 9242),
attributed to Rogier van der Weyden.

Opening 15 May 2020

Open from Tuesday to Sunday
from 10am to 6pm.

Closed on Mondays and certain
holidays (see www.kbr.be).

Tickets

€11

€8 Over 65, students, groups

Free Under 18, visitors with
a disability, teachers,
jobseekers

Guided tours

1hr30; 15 ppl/group

€85 (weekdays)

€95 (weekends)

+ €8 p.p.

Route and guided tours available
in English, French, Dutch, German
and Spanish.

Options available for families
and school groups. See www.kbr.be

**The Royal Library of
Belgium is now KBR. An
inspiring place offering
access to a wealth of
outstanding knowledge.
A place where time is
treasured.**

Location

KBR museum

Mont des Arts 28, 1000 Brussels



**Book your
tickets online
at www.kbr.be**