

Liège Cartiers

Written by Thierry Depaulis

English Abstract

Liège, presently in Belgium, is somewhat of a 'black hole' as far as the history of playing cards is concerned. Although many hints point to a continuous activity in card making from the 16th century to the early 20th, nobody there has cared to investigate the cardmakers of Liège. Until 1794, as an almost independent state – the Principality-Bishopric of Liège – the country, which spread along the Meuse valley, was an important manufacturing centre, exporting its metallurgy and its textiles to many parts of Europe.

While the Southern Low Countries were losing all their cardmakers, playing cards were actively made in the city of Liège as early as the late 16th century, as we show in this article. During the 17th century, the Prince-Bishop promulgated two acts regulating the craft, a clear sign of its importance. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the production rise, particularly with the Dubois dynasty. Made out of various gleanings, this article is intended to just call attention on Liège as a significant card-making centre. It invites to more (local) research.

This article has no other purpose than to draw attention to a real "black hole" in history.

playing cards in Europe: cards (and tarot cards) were made in Liège (Fig. 1) for more than three centuries, and no one thought to study this activity in detail. Thus, Alexandre Pinchart wrote¹ : "the names of the master cardmakers of Liège are to be sought. » He only knew three!



Fig. 1. *Legions or Leodium; commonly Liege : Liège en 1627, par Julius Milheuser, dans Johannes Blaeu, New and great theater of the cities of Belgium, Amsterdam, 1649. (Wikimedia Commons)*

However, I have gathered some information gleaned here and there, which allows us to note the presence of cardmakers from the end of the 16th century. From the 16th to the 19th century, I was able to identify some 45 card makers, but there were surely more! It is true that their production is rare and the traces of their presence are so discreet that we barely notice them. The absence of any taxation also deprives us of the numerous regulations found in France, Savoie-Piedmont and many other countries.

However, Édouard Poncelet, archivist and historian

¹ Alexandre Pinchart, *Research on playing cards and their manufacture in Belgium from the year 1379 until the end of the 18th century*, Brussels, 1870 (reprint. Brussels, 1993), pp. 27-29. Pinchart's excuse was that the archives of Liège, an episcopal principality of the Empire independent of the "Netherlands" (present-day Belgium), were better represented in Liège than in Brussels.

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nothing from Liège, did not hesitate to write in 19082 :

The manufacture of playing cards took on great importance in Liège around the middle of the 17th century; it was not, originally, the subject of any special regulation; but, annexed to the trade of mercers, the statutes observed by the other industrial branches of this corporation were applied to it, by assimilation.

In fact, twice, the prince-bishop Maxi-milien-Henri of Bavaria deemed it necessary to regulate the work of cartmakers, united with the "trade of mercers", in 1669, then in 1685.

Two provisions that Poncelet summarizes as follows: By virtue of a decree taken by the City Council on February 6, 1669 and approved, on the following February 28, by Maximilian-Henri of Bavaria, it was necessary, to become a master carmaker, to be a fils master, or having worked under a master for four years; in addition, a masterpiece, namely a game of fnes cards, was required and submitted to the appreciation of two masters delegated by the mayors [...].

This order was not complete; the non-limiting of the number of apprentices led to the excessive multiplication of masters, several of whom would, to the great detriment of the people of Liège, transport their industry to foreign cities.

The master cartmakers therefore requested, and obtained, on September 19, 1685, from Maximilian-Henri of Bavaria, the confirmation of a new regulation bearing:

1° That no master carmaker can have (apart from the master workers) only one apprentice, who must serve four years before being admitted to the masterpiece to become master.

2° That no apprentice can work on piecework if, beforehand, he is not judged capable of doing so by the deputies of the master carmakers.

Poncelet admitted to having found "in the archives of the mercers' trade only one act relating to the apprenticeship and the masterpiece of

2 Édouard Poncelet, "The good profession of the mercers of the city of Liège", Bulletin of the Liège Society of Walloon Literature, 50, 1908, pp. 239-366, Cartiers pp. 345-347.

3 Jean Yernaux, Liège employment contracts of the 17th century, Brussels, Palais des Académies, 1941 (Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium.

Royal Commission on History, Publications in octavo, 53).

4 Unrelated to the current province of Liège.

card manufacturers". Certainly, these archives appear less comprehensive than others, but Jean Yernaux, another archivist, published some apprenticeship contracts for cardmakers in the 17th century in a study published in 19413 .

And if

the 18th century is less known, we find here and there the names of card makers who, from Gérard Bodet (around 1700) to Dubois (at the end of the century and the beginning of the next), animated this production.

For this period, the genealogy sites Genea-net and FamilySearch are useful.

The Country of Liège

We cannot forget that the "Liège country"⁴ roughly occupying the Meuse valley, from Givet, in the Ardennes, to Maastricht, in the north, formed, during the entire period preceding the French invasion of 1794, a real State, very distinct from the rest of the Countries -Bottom (Fig. 2). Liège is

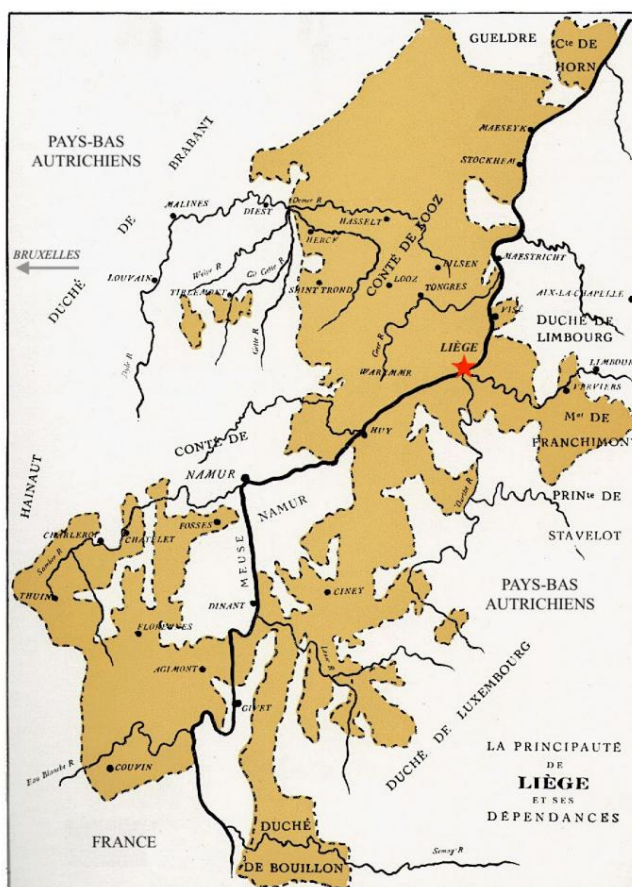


Fig. 2. Map of the principality-bishopric of Liège before 1794 (courtesy of Fabrice Muller, www.fabrice-muller.be)

the head of an episcopal principality of the Empire, which included, among others, Dinant, Huy and Spa (the most popular spa resort in Europe from the Middle Ages to the 19th century).

While the southern Netherlands, Spanish in the 16th and 17th centuries, then Austrian after 1713, are a "government" dependent on the crown of Spain then the Habsburgs of Austria, the principality-bishopric of Liège only falls within the German Roman Empire, which makes it a quasi-independent state in the period that interests us.

The organization and political life of the Lie-Geois State are therefore very different from neighboring countries. In Liège, during the 17th century, two parties clashed violently, the Grignoux, a popular and "democratic" party, representing the trades, rather Francophile, and the Chiroux, uniting nobles and business bourgeoisie, supporters of the prince and rather Hispanophiles. The borders of the Liège region are particularly jagged, dotted with enclaves of the southern Netherlands. Border and customs conflicts were numerous in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Pays de Liège is renowned for its iron and coal mines, its engineers, its metallurgical industry – Liège sells its nails throughout Europe –, its production of firearms and sheets, but also for its artistic life, which led to many Liégeois – painters, engravers, musicians – being called to the court of France. Except for the north of the country, which is more Dutch-speaking, two-thirds of the Liège state only knows "official" French and Walloon. It is in French that the prince-bishop addresses his subjects.

Strong ties unite the principality with the Kingdom of France. Cooperation between the two countries is often required – such as to allow the passage of French troops who attempted to invade the United Provinces in 1672.

Another particularity of the principality-bishopric of Liège is that a little paper is produced there. The hilly and even mountainous configuration, with the Ardennes to the south, lends itself better to the operation of paper mills than the "flat country" governed from Brussels. But paper production remains insufficient and paper must be imported from Switzerland (Basel)

and the Duchy of Lorraine (Épinal and its region). Printers and booksellers prospered in Liège, especially in the 18th century, even if it meant counterfeiting French works. Censorship then seems quite flexible.

From 1581 to 1723, princes of the Bavarian family (Wittelsbach) reigned in Liège, with one short exception. Like several members of their family, they are rather allies of France; only the surprise election of Jean-Louis d'Elderen, in 1688, brought to the episcopal throne a prince hostile to France, who hastened to join the League of Augsburg formed to fight Louis XIV. Immediately, the Sun King invaded the principality: Huy was occupied, the capital bombarded (1691), Stavelot burned; Dinant, conquered in 1675, remains in French hands. But d'Elderen died in 1694 and was replaced by a Bavarian.

From 1581 to 1612, Ernest of Bavaria reigned over the principality; he also became archbishop-elect of Cologne in 1583. He was a prince-bishop rather favorable to the "trades" (corporations) which he associated with power in 1603. His nephew Ferdinand of Bavaria succeeded him from 1612 to 1650 but preferred to revoke the freedoms granted to the guilds. On his death, Maximilian-Henri of Bavaria (Fig. 3) was elected by the chapter of Liège. He is also the nephew of his

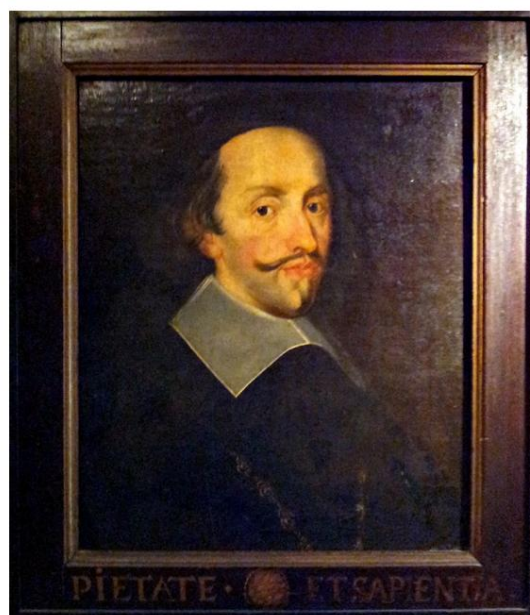


Fig. 3. Maximilian Henry of Bavaria (r. 1650-1688). (Grand Curtius, Liège – Wikimedia Commons)

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predecessor, and he also combines the functions of archbishop of Cologne and elector of the Holy Roman Empire. He reigned until 1688. After the brief intermission of Jean-Louis d'Elderen (1688-1694), a Bavarian once again occupies the episcopal throne: Joseph-Clement of Bavaria, also archbishop of Cologne, friend of France, shaken by the War of the Spanish Succession (1700-1713), and who died in 1723, last princes of his family.

It is in this context, quite agitated in the 17th century century, that the Liège cartmakers worked.

First Liège carters?

The discovery of some stoneware vases and jugs produced in Raeren⁵ a type of ceramic very popular at the end of the 16th century century, bearing on their fanc a medallion with the name and coat of arms of a certain Robert Thievin *cartemaker*, pushed local scholars to investigate⁶ (Fig. 4a and 4b).

Here, *cartemaker*

appears to be Low German, the dialect of the Raeren region, and most certainly designates a card maker and not a “wood engraver for card game manufacturers”. We believed Thievin “image maker”⁷

working for the potters of Raeren, but it is more logical to think that he had his name and his arms put on the prestigious tableware that he used at home or that he offered to his clients. Indeed, Henri Schuermans reports:

The house he lived in in Liège was recently demolished in front of the old church of Saint-Nicolas, neighboring that of Saint-Pholien, and a stained glass window was found there with this inscription: HBLE ROBERT TIEVVIN BOVRGOIS DE LIEGE MASTER of CEANS 1590. This coat of arms bears the same furniture as on the stoneware pots: a chevron accompanied by three bunches of grapes.

Among the baptismal acts of Notre-Dame-

aux-Fonts, Robert Thievin or Thieuvin appears several times, and notably in the following: August 11, 1596, Jeanne, daughter of Henri Pardic and Jacqueline N. Parr. Me Robert Thieuvin, marr. Catherine Pardic.



Fig. 4a and 4b. Left: Jug of Raeren with the arms of Robert Thievin, *cartemaker*. (Rotterdam Museum) – Right: Statement of the inscription: ROBERT ÿ THIEVIN / CARTE ÿ MAKER.

Here is a carter active in Liège at the very end of the 16th century and who seems to have made his fortune. Thieuvin is not a name from Liège, but rather from the west of France.

However, there were several Thieuvin cartmakers in Rouen in the 16th and 17th centuries! Even more, a Robert Thieuvin registered his mark in Rouen in 1547, another in 1569 (Fig. 5)⁸. It is therefore highly probable that Robert Thievin came from Rouen as a carmaker - undoubtedly one of the first... We can even think that he was one of those who left Normandy to settle in foreigner, in order to avoid the tax on exported playing cards decided in 1581 or that of 1583 which taxed games sold in the kingdom. Without being absolutely demonstrated, the departure of master craftsmen to other countries is regularly

⁵ Today Belgian (province of Liège), the German-speaking commune of Raeren was for a long time part of the Duchy of Limburg then Prussia. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the village was renowned for its excellent sandstone.

⁶ Notably Henri Schuermans, “Porcelain stoneware with Liège coat of arms”, Bulletin of the Liège Archaeological Institute, XIX, 1886, pp. 1-67, see p. 10-11; Johann Peter Schmitz, “Limburg sandstone from Raeren: 5th letter to MM. the Members of the Committee”, Bulletin of the Royal Commissions on Art and Archaeology, 20th year, 1881; H. Schuermans, “A thousand inscriptions of so-called Famand sandstone vases”, Annals of the Academy of Archeology of Belgium, XXXIX, 1883, p. 142, no. 784.

⁷ Indeed, we don't know why, among Dutch-speaking authors, a “maker of cartridges”!

⁸ Register J 365 of the Departmental Archives of Seine-Maritime (ADSM).

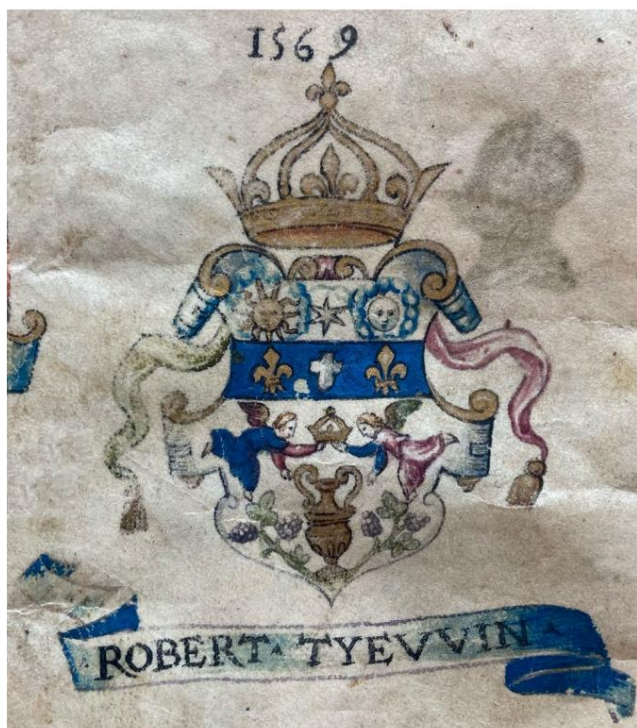


Fig. 5. Mark of Robert Thieuvvin in the portable register of marks of Rouennais cartmakers (ADSM, J 365, photo TD)

invoked by defenders of the profession in the face of the tax that hits them.

Thieuvvin was not the only foreigner established in the Burning City to make playing cards. We would not know the name of the cardmaker Jean Hémau (or Hémou) if he had not come to settle in Épinal around 1618, *coming from Liège*. Recent research has made it possible to better understand the arrival in the Lorraine city of this first cartier. Jean-Marie Dumont, author of reference works on the famous Pellerin imagery, was the first to report the arrival of Hémau in these terms:

...it was from the end of 1618 that Jean Hémau, also a native of Troyes, had set up as a cardmaker in Epinal, at the request of Claude Genet, a large Spinalian merchant, who had acquired the property of the paper mill of Grennevo in 1613. [...] Jean Hémau, who had come from Liège and had brought with him several Liège cardmakers, married his daughter Marie, in 1621, to Gérard Gérard who succeeded him around 1629 and who through his descendants ensured the survival of the card industry in Epinal.



Fig. 6. Two valets of Jean Hémau in Épinal. (BnF, photo TD)

Thus, Hémau came from Liège... A fortunate check made it possible to find him in the city registers:

597 July 21 [1604]. — Admission to the bourgeoisie of Jehan Hemo, son of Jehan Hemo, having taken up the trade of mercers, on July 20, 1593, as husband of Marie, widow of Gielet Stiennon. AEL, Cité, 41, f° 148.10
Installed in Liège, Jean Hemo/Hémau therefore married Marie, widow Stiennon, which allowed him to enter the trade of mercers (July 20, 1593), by *relief*

(which is distinguished from acquisition

9 Jean-Marie Dumont, "Spinalian traffic from 1560 to 1630", in *Principalities and territories and studies of Lorraine history: Acts of the 103rd National Congress of Learned Societies*. Nancy-Metz, 1978, Paris, 1979, p. 301.

10 Juliette Rouhart-Chabot, Étienne Hélin, ed., *Admissions to the bourgeoisie of the City of Liège, 1273-1794*, Liège, 1962, p. 124 (1604).

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sion reserved for newcomers), as the husband of a widow of the said "good profession"; he thus succeeded his late husband, Gielet Stiennon – whose profession we do not know –; this then allowed him, in July 1604, to gain access to the bourgeoisie of Liège.

Jean Hemo was born in Troyes, in November 1565, because we find in the registers of Saint-Jacques-aux-Nonnains the following baptism:

On November 1st above said year [1565] Jehan Hemo son of Jean Hemo was baptized. The parents Jean Deschants, Anthoine Chapelot, the mother Anne Pesche.¹¹

There is no mistake: the father is the same.

Coming from Troyes, a cart-making city, where he certainly learned his trade, arriving before 1593 in Liège, Hemo/Hémau allowed himself to be convinced around 1618 that in Épinal he would do even better. Accompanied by numerous companions – a sign that his workshop was important – he actually founded a powerful industry in the Lorraine city that his successors would make bear fruit.¹² His stay in Liège appears to have lasted around 25 years. It is probable that he lost his wife, Marie, widow Stiennon, because he only had one daughter with him when he arrived in Épinal.

Robert Thieuvin, from Rouen, and Jean Hémau, from Troyes, were perhaps the first carters of Liège.

The 17th century

If the ruin of Antwerp, sacked by the *tiercos* Spanish in 1576, besieged and brutally taken by Alexander Farnese in 1585 and blocked on the sea side by the Dutch from the end of the century, puts an end to the production of playing cards in the Spanish Netherlands for a hundred years, the principality of Liège continued to

making maps throughout the 17th century.

Little is known about the Legeois cartmakers of this period. We barely learned that Noël Janesson, a cartmaker, had his paper brought from Lorraine, as evidenced by a Spinalian notarial deed from September 1606 relating to a deal with a stationer from Épinal, Claudinel Thomas:

appeared as honest persons Noel Janes-his neighborhood currently residing in the city of Liege, on the one hand, and Claudinel Thomas march-chant papelier bourgeoys despinal on the other hand...¹³

Thomas promised to deliver to Janesson 50 bales of paper with his mark, 50 bales of "o-vrage de poste" (paper with the watermark on the post horn) and 100 bales of "petite estresses"¹⁴.

Jean Yernaux encountered three apprenticeship contracts with Liège cartmakers: the first, dated November 18, 1624, was signed with Robert Delaplace, a bourgeois from Liège; the second is signed with Étienne Badon on November 20, 1642; the third concerns Gabriel Polart for a contract dated November 30, 1646.¹⁵ In reality, this third contract is more of an employment contract (more precisely "allocated"), because the young Jean Loxhea is required "for the sake of the said Gabriel [Polart] work on making cards": he therefore has nothing more to learn. It is also recalled that "Jean still worked alongside the same Gabriel for another two years", for which Polart owes him 50 Brabant forins¹⁶. Thus, we know that Jean Loxhea was already employed at the workshop in 1644.

For his part, Édouard Poncelet mentions Gérard Godden (Goddin, Godin?), "carjetier" (cartier, in Walloon), in 1637. He adds:

In the archives of the haberdashers' trade, we find only one act relating to the apprenticeship and the masterpiece of the card makers:

¹¹ Archives of Troyes, Saint-Jacques-aux-Nonnains, register of baptisms, 1558-1567, fol. 81v. No profession indicated for the father, the mother is not named...

¹² For all this, see Thierry Depaulis, "Playing cards, ferté d'Épinal", in Martine Sadion and Anne Cablé, ed., C'est une "image d'Épinal", Épinal, Musée de l'Image Ville d'Épinal, 2013, pp. 26-55.

¹³ Quoted in Jean-Marie Janot, The paper mills of the Vosges region, Nancy, 1952, p. 168.

¹⁴ Special paper for the inside of the card.

¹⁵ Jean Yernaux, Liège employment contracts of the 17th century, op. cit., pp. 104-105 (Polart), 342-343 (Delaplace and Badon).

See also in Louis Tummers, "The history of playing-cards in Belgium (II)", The Playing-Card, vol. IV, No. 2, 1975, pp. 15-27.

¹⁶ The contract is reproduced by Louis Tummers, op. cit., Appendix 12, pp. 21-22.

on May 22, 1671, on the death of Guillaume Piedboeuf, master carmaker, his apprentice, Libert Wathier, married Catherine Godin, widow of his boss, and took over the trade of mercers from this boss; at the same time, he proved that he had completed his four years of apprenticeship and executed the masterpiece prescribed by the ordinance of 1669, before Jacques de Bassenge, master carmaker, delegated for this purpose by the mayors, and Jean Counotte, also a master carmaker; his deck of cards was found good and valid.¹⁷

Here, in May 1671, we have to deal with four cartiers: Guillaume Piedboeuf, who has just died, Libert Wathier, his "apprentice", who married his widow¹⁸, Jacques de Bassenge and Jean Counotte, responsible for examining the masterpiece. Wathier's work.

Was this Libert Wathier (or Walteri) really an apprentice? We previously found him in Tongres¹⁹, already married (!) and father of a son, Peter Joannes, born in 1664. He must have lost his wife...

We preserve a sheet of 12 figures with the portrait of Flanders, signed LIBERT WALTERI on the jack of spades, used for the cover of a Liège notarial deed of 1707 (Fig. 7), rare example of Liège production of ordinary cards, and other cards this time taken from a notarial deed of 1710 with jack of clubs in the name of Libert Walteri and legend "Die speelt en wint, Is wel gesint"²⁰.

At the end of the century, on June 4, 1695, Jacques Thiriard received the exclusive grant to make and sell certain cards of his invention (State Archives in Liège, Privy Council of the Principality of Liège). But the most prominent designer around 1700 was undoubtedly Gérard Bodet. His name appeared when Filip Cremers acquired it for the National Museum

van de Speelkaart from Turnhout a complete "Rouen-Brussels" type tarot, which displays, on the ace of coins: "CARDS OF TA / RAVTS MADE / BY GERARD / BODET AV // FA-VBOURG STE / MARGVARITTE / MAISTRE CARTIE[R] / IN LIEGE" (Fig. 8a-b)²¹. Initially vaguely dated from the middle of the 18th century, the tarot of Gérard Bodet must be compared to 1700, because a sixain envelope of "Cartes fines" bearing the same name and address was discovered in the collection of the Limburg Regional Historical Center in Maastricht (Fig. 9).

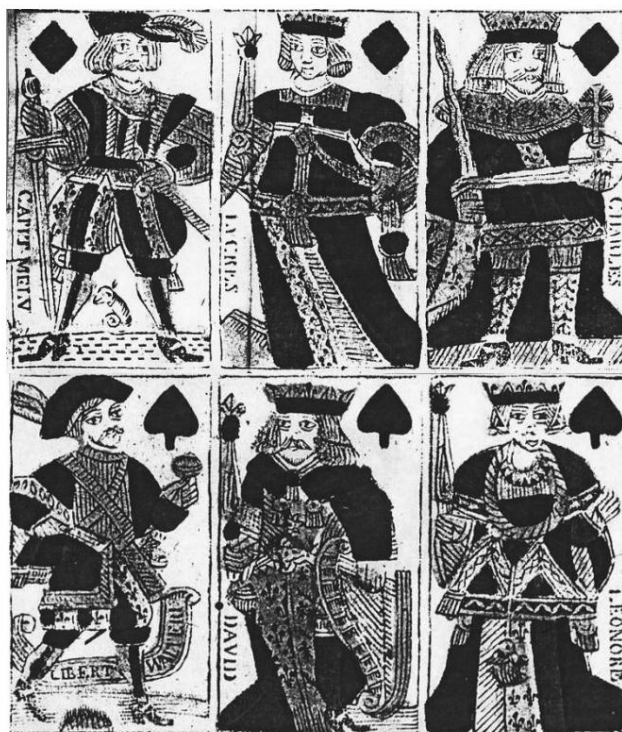


Fig. 7. Some cards from a deck with the portrait of Flanders by Libert Walteri. (www.speelkaartenmuseum.nl)

¹⁷ Ed. Poncelet, op. cit., p. 346, according to "Grand Greffe, criminal affairs, reg. No. 252, fol. 124 v°.

¹⁸ Does Catherine Godin have any kinship with Gérard Godden mentioned above?

¹⁹ Tongeren, a Dutch-speaking town ("Thioise"), was one of the 23 "Good Towns" of the principality of Liège.

²⁰ <http://archieff3700.blogspot.com/2014/12/een-tongerse-speelkaart-uit-de.html> (December 9, 2014), accessed March 30, 2023. See also Lex Rijnen's website, <http://www.speelkaartenmuseum.nl/antiek/pages/fouquet-0.htm>.

²¹ Filip Cremers, Cardmakers in Wallonia / Cartiers en Wallonie, Turnhout, 1994, n° 26. Your remercie in the National Museum of the Playing Card (Turnhout) about the four images of the tarot and the information about the authorization the lesson reproduire.

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Fig. 8a-b. Some tarot cards from Gérard Bodet in Liège. (NMS, S01123)



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Fig. 8c. Some tarot cards from Gérard Bodet in Liège. (Collection JV)



Figs. 9. Envelope of sixth of "Cartes fines" in the name of Gérard Bodet, 1693. (Regional Historisch Centrum Limburg)

It displays in two places the date, *engraved*, of 169322. This provides a date for this cardmaker. Another envelope from Gérard Bodet is in the same collection but with a different (and somewhat mysterious) address and it is not dated²³ :

²² Regional Historical Center Limburg, 18.E23, no. 6.

²³ Regionaal Historisch Centrum Limburg, 18.E23, n° 91. I thank the center for kindly providing me with an image of this envelope.

²⁴ Sic. "With a red heart"?

²⁵ Parish registers of Liège Sainte-Marguerite and Saint-Severin consulted online and genealogy site Geneanet.

CARD FINNES FACTS [sic] BY
GERARD BODET MAISTRE
CARTIE DEMEVRAANT BY
COEVEROVGE24 A ST SEVERIN A LIEGE

Could there be two Gérard Bodets? It's not impossible. The cases of carters succeeding one another from father to son and with the same first name are well known. Consultation of the parish registers of Liège, digitized and posted online on the website of the General Archives of the Kingdom, made it possible to note the birth of a Gérard Bodet, baptized in Sainte-Marguerite on August 26, 1678. He is the son of... Gérard Bodet and Saint Bernar (who died in 1682). But is this really our neighborhood? It is probable, given the date and the parish, but it is not certain, because the profession is not mentioned.

This son born in 1678 married Élisabeth Riga on February 21, 1701 in the same parish. The couple had two children, but Élisabeth died and, on November 8, 1711, Gérard Bodet fs remarried Anne Marie Giltai. According to these same sources²⁵, Gérard II Bodet was buried in Saint-Severin on April 27, 1731.

Belgian parish registers are poor in details. Professions are rarely mentioned there, which leaves a lot of uncertainty.

A doubt therefore remains. Another Gérard Bodet lost his wife, Barbe Devivier, who was buried on July 9, 1711... We know of six children, born between 1690 and 1708. But the parish is not the same, because these children were all baptized in Notre-Dame-aux-Fonts. We should undoubtedly rule out this "candidate".

We are therefore tempted to think that the two Gérards Bodet, father and son, who succeeded each other at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, were indeed Cartmakers. The first carried out his activity in the parish of Sainte-Marguerite between approximately 1675 and perhaps 1700. He would be the cartier of the envelope of 1693. His son, married for the first time in 1701, would then have succeeded him; remarried in 1711, he seems to have followed his new wife to Saint-Severin, because it is there that he died in 1731. The second envelope should perhaps be attributed to him.

In addition to the tarot which is in Turnhout, we know of a second copy in a private French collection, but incomplete: the cards bearing name and address are missing. Comparing the cards, however, allows us to affirm that the two games are identical, except for one detail.

In the copy from the Nationaal Museum van de Speelkaart, asset I is named LE RATELEUX (Fig. 8b). An error that we also find *in all the tarot cards* made in Brussels as well as in Dinant in the 18th century (except in that of Van den Borre, who restored the correct spelling). However, the other tarot, incomplete, displays LE BATELEUX (Fig. 8c). It is clear that the lower bar of the B subsequently broke, and that the copy in France is older than that of Turnhout. Could it be the work of Gérard Bodet senior, when the Turnhout tarot would be the product of a reprint made by the son?

This makes Liège the center of the diffusion in current Belgium of the "Rouen-Brussels" tarot²⁶. In any case, we must be able to date these two copies between 1690 and 1720 at the latest, even if the visible wear of certain parts of the two copies (notably the checkered border of some trumps and most of the legends) would argue for an older engraving.

The 18th century

"In the 18th century," writes Filip Cremers²⁷, "Liège had several cartmakers. » And added: "We know the names of J.-P. Philippart, G. Lar-moyer, Thomas Thiriard, JJ Saint-Viteux (at the address St Severin, 711) and Everard Balla . »

The list can be greatly extended. Stanislas Bormans delivers two others in his "Research on the streets of the old St-André parish" (1867)²⁸ :

Rue du Pont, No. 136. — [...] Hab. : 1736, Fr. Dujardin, master carmaker, and J. Pernotte, his wife; 1791, Denis Boubers, printer.

Rue Neuvise, No. 143. — [...] 1740, *crowned map*. Inhabitants: 1736, MC Stephani, widow Thiariard; 1791, G.-J. Berard, merchant.

Could this Thiriard widow be that of Jacques, provided with a privilege for "certain cards of his invention" in 1705? The sign speaks. We find it under the name of *Thomas Thiriard* in this same street (see further).

We could also cite Pierre Mons, whose six figures in the portrait of "old" Paris, as was done outside France, were in the collection of Frank van den Bergh²⁹ (Fig. 10). The jack of clubs displays Pierre Mons, certainly the cardmaker without a first name mentioned for Liège in 1751 by Pinchart. The spines bear handwritten annotations all dated 1735.

²⁶ I will return to this important observation in a future article.

²⁷ F. Cremers, op. cit., pp. 29-30 et 67.

²⁸ Stanislas Bormans, "Research on the streets of the ancient parish of St-André in Liège", Bulletin of the Société Liège de littérature wallonne, 9th year, 1867, p. 446 (rue Neuvise) and 456 (rue du Pont).

²⁹ Frank van den Bergh, Collected playing cards: the Frank van den Bergh collection. [Houses], 2018, p. 52-53. Also see the catalog of The Art of the Deal, Daniel Crouch Rare Books, Londres, 2023, n° 13 (or Pierre Mons is this « active in France around 1730 »!).



Figs. 10. Cartes de Pierre Mons au portrait de Paris "provincial", Liège, circa 1735. (ex-coll. Frank van den Bergh)

G. Larmoyer is the author of an animal tarot with French "Lyonnais" type signs, dated 1753 which is in the British Museum (O'Donoghue 1901, Fl. 9). Godefroid Larmoyer married Jeanne Françoise Lagasse on September 13, 1740 in Sainte-Marie-Madeleine³⁰. In 1752, Joseph-Clément Dupont, merchant-goldsmith and bourgeois of Liège, rented the house of Pont royal³¹ to Godefroid Lar-moyer.

Thomas Thiriard, whose envelope Filip Cremers points out in a private collection, bearing the address "EN NEVISE [= rue Neuvise, in Liège] A LA MAIN DOR", which he dates around 1741-1761³², in fact lived in 1738 -1741, rue Neuvise, at no. 143, where the *A la Carte Couronnée* sign hung. ³³

Jean Daywalle or Daywaille is a little better served. Eugen van Autenboer gave it for 1752³⁴ and the Venlo archives preserve a fragment of an envelope "Cartes very fines made by Jean Daywalle, master cartier (...) te Liege" from 1758³⁵. Alexandre Pinchart points out another envelope with handwritten annotations dated 1777. We know of this card maker an animal tarot with French signs of the "lyon-nais" type in the Cary collection at Yale (BEL 19), which the catalog dates to around 1770 but which is perhaps a little older. Here, the address is: "Jean Daywalle Aux 4 Roys derier la Magdelaine A Liege". The British Museum has 52 cards of this same tarot (without trumps and knights) and believes the deck to be "complete" (O'Donoghue 1901, Fl. 14) (Fig. 11) ³⁶. In the iron of the halberd of the jack of diamonds, we read *houllion*, signature of the engraver NJ Houillon, who we know resides in Liège with Jean Daywalle and also works for the Senepar carmaker in Brussels. On December 5, 1752, Houillon wrote to the widow Senepar who had ordered two molds from him, "a taroté au solleil and a taroté de holande decorated with marks", clearly intended for printing the spines; he

³⁰ Geneanet.

³¹ State Archives in Liège, Notary A. Franck, December 27, 1752.

³² F. Cremers, op. cit., n. 41 p. 77, et 79 for the dates.

³³ State Archives in Liège, Hospital of the Incurables, 1386. Compare with Bormans, loc. cit.

³⁴ Eugen van Autenboer, « Cardmakers in Brussels », *The Playing-Card*, vol. XII, n° 4, 1984, p. 108.

³⁵ Venlo Municipal Archives, Pastor JLA van Oppen.

³⁶ Inv. 1896.0501.760. The cardmaker's name, on the jack of clubs, is almost erased, and the BM was unable to read it.



Fig. 11. Cards from an animal tarot with French "Lyonnais" type signs, with decorated aces, by Jean Daywalle, Liège, circa 1760. (© The Trustees of the British Museum, © TD for tidying up the cards)

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will invoice him for them on August 31, 1753.³⁷

Of Jean-Pierre Philippart we know that he married Marie Catherine Bernardine Deloncin on June 8, 1775 in Sainte-Marie-Madeleine; Pin-chart mentions it in 1789.

The Turnhout museum has a rather crude envelope, printed in red, where one reads (badly!): CARTES (...) M. CHAUMONT RESIDING / AV LION ARME BEHIND THE / MAGDELAINE IN LIEGE. This Chaumont – without a known first name – was “Master Cartier in Liège” in 1771³⁸; according to an annotation made in pencil on Turnhout's envelope, in 1786, he was a wallpaper manufacturer.

Other Liège card makers are cited here and there: see the Repertoire Essay in the appendix.

We cannot fail to also point out the existence of a wood engraver, Pierre Paul Depas, active in Liège in the years 1760-1780.

His surname, depas, appears in the iron of the halberd of a jack of spades inspired by the portrait of Paris (Fig. 12) quite characteristic of Liège production of the period³⁹. Bibliographers had long noted this name – or the initials PD – on vignettes, feurons and other typographic ornaments of books printed in Liège.

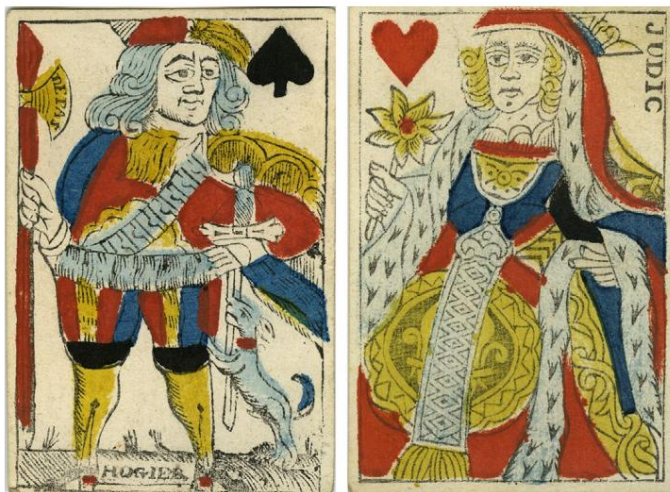


Fig. 12. Queen of hearts and jack of spades type PV1 signed by the engraver Depas. (LWL-Archivamt für Westfalen)

of the world : Catalogue of the collection of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, Londres, V, 74, [506].

⁴² Desolneux, The key to commerce, or state of commerce and manufacturing in the main places of Europe, the Levant and some even from America, Paris, year XI-1802, LIÈGE. Playing card manufacturers: Dubois (Ve.).

The Dubois

The Dubois, father, sons and grandsons, seem to have been the most important carters in Liège from the second half of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century. Several card games and tarot cards bear their name. Genealogy sites allow people to reconstruct their careers. Let's first see the father, Jean-Baptiste. On June 7, 1763, he married Marie Jeanne Charlotte Rinkin (or Renkin). On October 20, 1769, their fourth child, Jean-Joseph (“JJ”), was baptized, then, on October 27, 1771, it was the turn of Jean-Théo-dore (“JT”). Two other children will follow, which still makes seven in total, but few have reached adulthood. Jean-Baptiste Dubois died on 5 Foréal year VI (April 24, 1798)⁴⁰.

We owe him an animal tarot with French signs of the Munich type signed “Fnes cards made, by JB Dubois, behind the Town House in Liege” (O'Donoghue 1901, Fl.7)⁴¹ and of course other games. His widow succeeded him briefly⁴².

Jean-Joseph Dubois (1769-1834), known as “Dubois fils”, was in Paris in 1793: on August 1 of that year, he was issued a “safety card”, a sort of identity card, which indicated that he was

³⁷ E. van Autenboer, « Cardmakers in Brussels », op. cit., p. 108 and 110

³⁸ Simon Peter Widmann, The Aschendorf Press, 1762-1912: a contribution to the history of printing in Münster, Münster, Aschendorf, 1912, p. 36.

³⁹ See Peter Endebruck, “Dinner invitations on playing cards,” The Playing-Card, vol. 46, no. 4, April-June 2018, p. 189-197 and Thierry Depaulis, “A Liège card engraver”, The Playing-Card, vol. 47, no. 1, July-Sept. 2018, p. 10-13. Thanks to Peter Endebruck for the two images.

⁴⁰ Since 1795, the Netherlands and the principality of Liège had been invaded and annexed by the French, then divided into departments. In Liège too, the Republican calendar, inaugurated in 1793, was current.

⁴¹ Autre exemplaire dans la collection de la Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards au London Metropolitan Archives : voir John Berry, Playing-cards

cartier, aged 22, native of Liège, and in Paris "since May 31" 43. On 14 Messidor year IX (07/3/1801), he married Marie Rose Augustine de Villelongue in Vigneux (France, Aisne).

Returning to Liège, he is mentioned in *The key to commerce* by Desolneux (1802). Two daughters were born in 1802 and 1804, but his wife died on 2 Ventôse year XII (February 22, 1804). On Friday 14th Year XIII (October 6, 1804), Jean-Jo-seph Dubois remarried, again in Vigneux (Aisne), to Marie-Jeanne Michel. Seven children will be born from this union. An envelope, kept at the British Museum (Schreiber Card Wrap-pers 5), with control strip (French) and dry stamp with the arms of the Empire, bears his address: "Au trois Pigeons / Fabrique de JJ

D[ubois] rue de Stokis No. 188".

In 1806, the Dubois brothers (Jean-Joseph and Jean-Théodore) settled in Bois-le-Duc ('s-Hertogenbosch), in Dutch territory, in order to escape the French tax regime in force in Liège. They announced their installation in the local newspapers:

...they have moved their playing card factory from Luijk to 's Hertogenbosch, and are operating it there with the desired success; that all kinds of PLAYING CARDS can be obtained from them in wholesale, requesting everyone's favor, under the assurance of prompt service⁴⁴

(They have moved their playing card factory from Liège to 's-Hertogenbosch, and are doing the same thing there with the desired success; one can obtain from them, basically, all kinds of playing cards, for all tastes, with the assurance of fast service.)

The Dubois brothers' factory in 's-Hertogenbosch seems to have operated until 1814. The only testimony to this production, a game with a two-headed portrait of Flanders is kept at the National Library of France⁴⁵; the envelope displays: The DuBois brothers / `A Bois-le-duc, and bears a Dutch tax stamp that Lex Rijnen dates from 1807-1810 (Fig. 13).

43 National Archives, Paris, F/7/4794, n° 172505.

44 Lex Rijnen, <http://www.speelkaartenmuseum.nl/antiek/pages/lijt-01b.htm>, accessed on 06/28/2022.

45 BnF, Prints, RESERVE BOX ECU-KH-167 (6, 192). See also <http://www.speelkaartenmuseum.nl/antiek/pages/dubois-1.htm>.

46 I thank the Musée de la Vie wallonne for providing me with the image and for authorizing me to reproduce it.

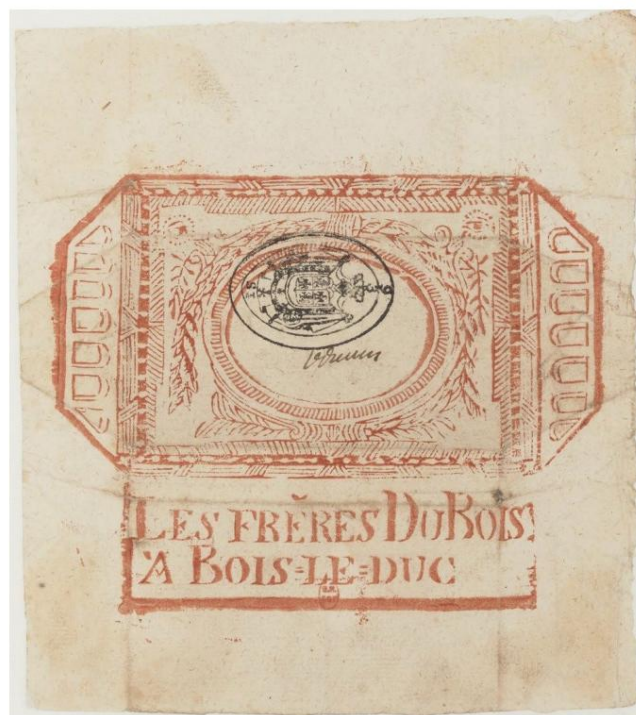


Fig. 13. Envelope of cards from a game with the portrait of Flandres with two heads, Frères Dubois in 's-Hertogenbosch. (BnF)

Around 1814, returning to Liège, Jean-Joseph settled in rue Haute-Sauvenière, where several directories mention him, such as the *Guide to Manufactures* (1821) or the *Almanac du commerce de Liège, Verviers, Huy, Spa and their surroundings* (1827), which specifies that it is at number 852. The Museum of Walloon Life, in Liège, has a painted sheet metal sign "AUX 3 PIGEONS JJ DUBOIS", which was given to them by the Cluck House (Fig. 14) 46.

According to the genealogy site FamilySearch, "Jean Joseph Dubois, 65 years old, merchant, born in Liège, domiciled there rue Haute Sauvenière n° 852, South district, widower of Marie Rose Augustine de Villelongue, separated husband of Marie Thérèse Eugénie Michel, son of the late Jean Baptiste Dubois, and of the late Jeanne Charlotte Renkin, died this 4.9.1834 audit n° 852." However, we find his name mentioned and honored in the catalog of the Exhibition of Belgian Industry

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in 1841, where he received a silver medal (!), then again in 1847. In 1854, a patent was granted "To Sieur Dubois (J.-J.), card maker, in Liège"! But undoubtedly it is his son Hyacinthe Joseph.

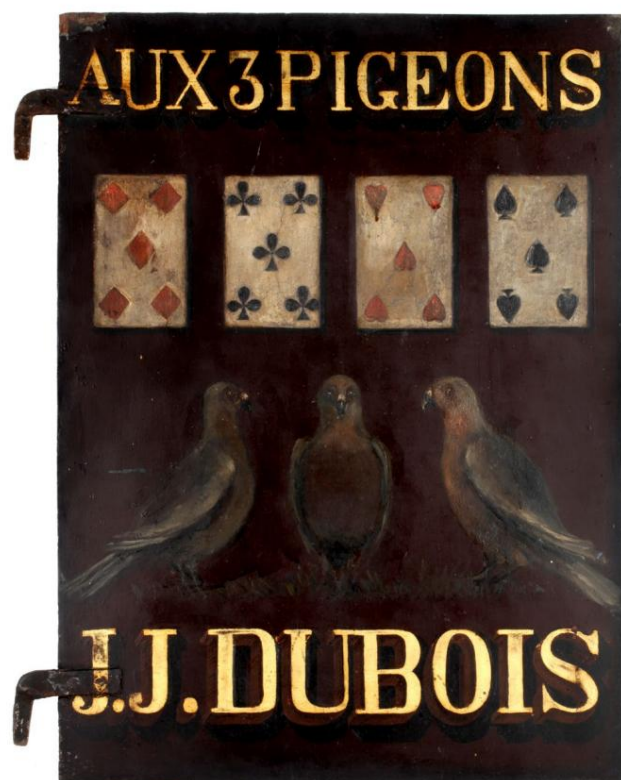


Fig. 14. AUX 3 PIGEONS JJ DUBOIS sign, painted sheet metal. (© Province of Liège-Museum of Walloon Life)

Jean-Théodore Dubois (1771-1856) is also a son of Jean-Baptiste. From 1806 to 1813, he worked with his brother Jean-Joseph in 's-Hertogenbosch to make maps. Would he have returned to Liège before his brother? We know of him a game with an official French portrait from 1811 (Gatteaux) relating to the jack of hearts: "FABQUE DE JT DUBOIS / RUE SOUVERAIN-PONT / N° 314, IN LIEGE "47.

Jean-Théodore Dubois appears to have reissued the Munich-style animal tarot that his father had produced⁴⁸. Oddly enough, there is another version⁴⁹, also bearing the name and address of JT Dubois on the trump I, but JJ Dubois on the jack of clubs. Even more curious, the inscription "a liege ad +" on the king of diamonds became: "a liege ir", without us being able to explain this change, because the other initials (JKH on the jack of diamonds, E on the jack of spades, J on the jack of hearts) are still there.

A double-headed French portrait game of type PV1 by JT Dubois (Fig. 15) bears, on the iron of the halberd of the jack of spades, the name pinsar. It is very probably Jacques-Joseph Pinsar (1783-1853), engraver on different supports, whom *the Almanac du commerce de Liège, Verviers, Huy, Spa and their surroundings* of 1826 ranks among the engravers on metals, but whose specialty is: "Polytype for Printers", that is to say he engraved and molded metal plates in relief for printing (more commonly called "clichés").



Fig. 15. JT Dubois, French double-headed portrait PV1, pinsar signature on the jack of spades. (private collection)

47 British Museum, Schreiber Flemish 13 ; NMS, Fonds B/153 (Cremers, op. cit., n° 40) ; Col. Cary, BEL 44 ; also Vitoria, Museo de Naipes (Alfaro Fournier 1982), FRA 143.

48 NMS, Fonds B/74 (Cremers, op. cit., n° 29), sans l'atout I.

49 British Museum, Schreiber Flemish 8 ; J. Berry, *Playing-cards of the world*, op.cit., 1995, V, 75, [168] ; NMS S01124 ; NMS Fonds B/8 (22 cartes) dans Cremers, op. cit., n° 28.

This same *Almanac* reports the presence of JT Dubois, rue Souverain-Pont, n° 314. This address allows us to distinguish him from his brother, JJ Dubois, rue Haute-Sauvenière, n° 852.

Jean-Théodore Dubois died in Liège on February 1, 1856, single and without children; his two wills in favor of his nephews Hya-cinthe and François, will be contested⁵⁰.

Son of Jean-Joseph, and therefore nephew of Jean-Théodore Dubois, Hyacinthe Joseph Dubois (1812-1884) succeeded his father on rue Haute-Sauvenière. On September 25, 1850, in Liège, he married Anna Didot, with whom he had three children. He seems to have worked with his brother Léon François (born in 1816), also a map maker. Having become an annuitant, Hyacinthe Joseph Dubois died on May 13, 1884 in Schaerbeek (Brussels).

It was undoubtedly he who received the praise at the Exhibition of Belgian Industry in 1841 and again in 1847, although these were addressed to "Monsieur Dubois, J.-J.!" On this occasion, the silver medal was awarded to him by the jury, with this comment:

We do not know of any card manufacturer in the kingdom that can compete with the Dubois house for the extent and importance of the relationships. This house ships its products to several countries in Europe and America: in Holland, in Portugal, in India, they are highly sought after. The care she takes to match them to the taste of the countries for which they are intended, their excellent manufacturing, their cheapness, have earned them this favor.

The cards exhibited by Mr. Dubois justify the reputation enjoyed by his establishment.⁵¹

And it cannot be JJ Dubois but his son to whom the Belgian government issues a patent "for a process of painting on playing cards", "to be dated August 26, 1854"⁵².

The personality of Léon François Dubois

seems more faded. Son of Jean-Joseph Dubois, he was born in 1816. In September 1850, he was a witness at the wedding of his brother Joseph Hya-cinthe and qualified as a card maker. But, when he attended the wedding of his niece Marie Anne Dubois, on June 7, 1873, he was an annuitant in *Les Buissons* (hamlet dependent on Durbuy, province of Luxembourg).

The Dubois brothers seem to have sold their business to Georges Cluck around 1857, because the National Museum of Speelkaart has a collection of samples of cards with prices indicated in a price list in the name of C. Gluck Liège April 22, 1857⁵³. Jean Georges Cluck, born in Liège in 1816, married Marie Elisabeth Philippart shortly before 1844. He died on January 23, 1879.

He surely had a successor, because the Cluck house was still in business in 1906. Cluck only had daughters, one of whom, Marie Agnès Clémence, married Louis Muraille, stationer and supplier, on May 12, 1866. of office, died in Liège on February 29, 1896. His widow (died in 1915) seems to have succeeded him for a few years.

With it, the Dubois house closed an existence of more than 130 years, and brought to an end the great history of Liège carters.

Other Liège card makers

Paradoxically, the 19th century Liège carters are even less well known. Their names appear in directories, such as *La clef du commerce de Desolneux* (1802), which cites Pinsmay and Simonis, the *Guide aux manufactures* (1821), which mentions Jacques Dupont, rue sur Meuse, or *the Almanach du commerce de Liège* (1826-27), where we find, among the card makers, Thonnard, the widow Dupont, rue sur Meuse, n° 444, Louis Durand, rue de la Rose, n° 467, and J. Déchamps, relegated among the "Mutations". By Louis Durand, Victoria

⁵⁰ Judicial Belgium, t. XX, No. 27, April 3, 1862, col. 427-429.

⁵¹ Jury Reports and Documents from the Belgian Industrial Exhibition in 1841, Brussels, 1842, p. 329.

⁵² J.-B.-A.-M. Jobard (dir.), Bulletin of the Museum of Industry, vol. 26th, no. 3, September 1854, p. 154: "To Mr. Dubois (J.-J.), card manufacturer, in Liège, a patent of invention, dated August 26, 1854, for a process of painting on playing cards. »

⁵³ Filip Cremers, « G. Gluck, card manufacturer at Liège, 1857 », *The Playing-Card*, vol. XXII, n° 1, août 1993, pp. 3-10.

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& Albert Museum has a woodcut of standing figures⁵⁴.

That leaves Saintviteux père and fils⁵⁵, the only real competitors of the Dubois. Jean-Joseph (1765-1833) married Joséphine Moxhon; he officiates at rue Saint-Séverin, n° 711 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1826-27); he was present at the wedding of his son Jean-Joseph-Arnold in 1830, but died in 1833. A French double-headed portrait PV1 is in the Cary collection (BEL 15) as well as an envelope, which announces: " Manufacture of JJ Saint Viteux rue St Severin, n° 711 a Liege » (BEL wrapper 29). Son fils Jean-Joseph-

Arnold Saintviteux (1798-1849), map maker, married Catherine Josephe Rosalie Lamkin on September 9, 1830; in 1831 his daughter Joséphine Rosalie Valérie was born; he died on December 24, 1849.

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Liège was therefore an important shopping center during the time of the principality, then under the French regime and again in the 19th century. I hope that these few insights will arouse the interest of Liège historians, who alone could shed light on the archives (especially notarial ones).

⁵⁴ Jean Hamilton, *Playing cards in the Victoria & Albert Museum*, Londres, HMSO, 1988, n° 46.

⁵⁵ Geneanet and FamilySearch provide some biographical data.

Appendix

Essay on a chronological directory of Liège card makers

Stiennon, Gilles / Gielet: ep. Marie (surname unknown); †before 1593; his widow Marie ep. Jean Hémau (Hemo) – it is not certain that this Gielet Stiennon was a carmaker

Thievin / Thieuvin / Tieuvin, Robert: 1590-1596 *cartemaker* (Schuermans 1886) – prob. came from Rouen, where Robert Thieuvin registered his brand in 1569 (Arch. dep. Seine-Mar., J 365) – there were several Thieuvin card makers in Rouen in the 16th and 17th centuries. !

Hémo (Hemau, Heymau, Hemault, Hemon, Hameau...), Jean (bp. Troyes 21 Nov. 1565): c.1593 ep. Marie, widow of Gielet Stiennon; July 20, 1593 "takes up the profession of mercers" (J. Rouhart-Chabot, E. Hélin, ed., *Admissions to the bourgeoisie of the City of Liège*, Liège, 1962); July 21, 1604 admitted to the bourgeoisie of Liège (id.); 1615 borrows 1000 Brabant forins from Gilles Verdin of Liège, which the latter comes to get paid in Épinal in 1625 (Arch. Épinal); 1617 or 1618 leaves to settle in Épinal (Depaulis 2013)

Janesson, Noël: September 1606 client of Claudinel Thomas, "paper merchant" from Épinal (Janot 1952)

Delaplace, Robert: 11/18/1624 takes an appr. (Yernaux 1941, Tummers 1975)

Godden (Goddin, Godin?), Gérard: 1637 "carje-tier" [cartier] (Poncelet 1908)

Badon, Étienne: 11/20/1642 takes an appr. (Yernaux 1941, Tummers 1975)

Polart / Pollart (Poulartz), Gabriel: August 1644 takes his nephew as a worker; 11/30/1646 signs his nephew's contract as a worker (Yernaux 1941, Tummers 1975)

Piedboeuf, Guillaume: †av. May 1671 (Poncelet 1908)

Bassenge, Jacques of: May 22, 1671 receives Libert Wathier master carmaker (Poncelet 1908)

Counotte, Jean: May 22, 1671 receives Libert Wathier master carmaker (Poncelet 1908)

Walteri / Wouters / Wathier, Libert: first in Tongeren, married to Joanna Jannen, with whom he has at least one son, Peter Joannes, born in 1664 (Arch. Tongeren); loses (?) his wife, then comes to Liège; May 1671 worker of Guillaume Piedboeuf (d. May 1671), ep. his widow and takes over from him (Poncelet 1908) – 12 fg. with the portrait of Flandres, signed LIBERT WALTERI on the VP, found in the cover. from a Liège notarial deed from 1707; other fgs. in the cover. from a Liège notarial deed from 1710 with VT in the name of Libert Walteri and legend "Die speelt en wint, Is wel gesint"

Bodet / Bodez / Bodeûs, Gérard I (°1651) : av. 1678 ep. Sainte Bernard (†1682) (Geneanet) ; 26/08/1678 bp. of his son Gérard (Ste-Marguerite); 24 August 1679 bp. of his son Bartholomew (Ste-Marguerite); 8 Nov. 1680 bp. of his daughter Marguerite (Ste-Marguerite); 19

April 1682 death of Saint Bernard (Ste-Marguerite); 1693 approx. by sixain "Cartes fines", dated 1693 (RHCL, Maastricht)

Thiriard, Jacques: June 4, 1695 Exclusive grant to Jacques Thiriard to make and sell certain cards of his invention (AE Liège, Privy Council of the Principality of Liège)

Bodet / Bodez / Bodeüs, Gérard II (1678-1731, fls de Gérard I) : 21 fév. 1701 ep. in 1 Élisabeth Riga (Ste-Marguerite, Geneanet); 29 April 1701 bp. of his daughter Sophie (Our Lady of the Fountains, Geneanet); 19 March 1702 bp. of his son Jean-Baptiste Paul (Ste-Marguerite, Geneanet); 8 Nov. 1711 ep. in 2 Anne Marie Giltai ("paro-chiana Sti Severini") ; 30 June 1713 Anne Marie Giltai, godmother of Gérard, daughter of Nicolas Noël Bodet; †27 April 1731 (St Séverin) ; 19 sept. 1751 death of his widow Anne Giltai (St-Séverin)

Bodet, Nicolas Noël (1687-1754): May 12, 1712 cartier, ep. Jeanne Charlier (Ste-Marguerite); June 30, 1713 bp. of his son Gérard, godmother Anne Marie Giltai, 2nd wife of Gérard II Bodet (Ste-Marguerite); Jan 27 1715 bp. of his son Henri (Ste-Marguerite); May 15, 1717 bp. his daughter Marie (Ste-Marguerite); August 9, 1719 bp. his daughter Marie (Ste-Marguerite); March 1722 bp. of his son Lambert Joseph (Ste-Marguerite); June 9, 1724 bp. of his son Nicolas (Ste-Marguerite); Sep 6, 1726 bp. his daughter Jeanne (Ste-Marguerite); †02/14/1754

Dujardin, François: ep. J. Pernotte; 1736 lives on the street du Pont (Bormans 1867)

Mons, Pierre: c.1735 6 heads with the portrait of Paris "Hector de Trois" (F. van den Bergh, *Verzamelde speelkaarten*, 2018, p. 52-53) with, on the back, 1735; 1751 (Pinchart 1870, without first name) – NB: the bluteau of the VT of the coll. van den Bergh displays a unicorn and the initials A LC, quite surely those of Antoine (III or IV) Le Cornu in Rouen

Thiriard, Thomas: 1738-1741 lives on rue Neuvise, at no. 143, where the sign "A la Carte couron-née" hung (AE Liège, Hôpital des Incurables, 1386); c.1741-1761 approx. in coll. private, with adr. "in Neuvise [= rue Neuvise, in Liège] A la Main d'or" (Cremers 1994, n. 41 p. 77 and 79 for the dates)

>> A Thiriard widow, Anne Marie, "merchant", asked to be able to open a card factory in Mannheim in Oct. 1737, but unable to pay the required tax, she ceased her activities in Jan. 1739 (P.

Endebrock, J. Platz, S. Radau, *Playing cards and card makers in Mannheim and the Electorate of the Palatinate*, Berlin, BDK, 2019, p. 68-73)

Larmoyer, G. (Godefroid): September 13, 1740 th. Jeanne Françoise Lagasse (Ste-Marie-Madeleine, Geneanet); 1752 Joseph-Clément Dupont, merchant-goldsmith and bourgeois of Liège, rents the house of Pont royal to Godefroid Larmoyer (AE Liège, Notary A.

Franck, December 27); 1753 animal tarot set. fr. "Lyonnais" type (O'Donoghue 1901, Fl. 9; Radau 1989, p. 33 Abb. 24)

Balla, Everard: c.1750 " BEHIND THE MAGDALENE IN LIEGE " (env. BU Liège: Cremers 1994, n. 42 p. 77) - an Evrard Balla baptized in St-Jean-Baptiste on 21 Nov. 1717 (Geneanet)

Daywa[il]le, Jean "Aux 4 Roys derier la Magdelaine A Liege": 1752 (van Autenboer 1984, p. 108); 1758 envelope fragment "Very fine cards made by Jean Daywalle, master carmaker (...) in Liege" (Arch. Venlo, Pastoor-deken JLA van Oppen); c.1777-80 (Pinchart: approx. with annot. mss. dated 1777)

Dubois, JB (Jean-Baptiste): June 7, 1763 th. Marie Jeanne Charlotte Rinkin (Geneanet); Oct. 20, 1769 bp. of his son Jean-Joseph; 10/27/1771 bp. of his son Jean-Théodore; August 26, 1797 and November 9, 1797 letters regarding the stamping of aces (L. Rijnen, in *Kontakblad van het NMS*, XXI, n° 1-2, March-June 1993, p. 3-5); †5 foréal year VI (04/24/1798) (Geneanet)

Collée, G. (Guillaume?): c.1777-80 (Pinchart)

Chaumont, ...: 1771 "Master Cartier in Liège" (Widmann 1912); 1786 wallpaper manufacturer (Turnhout) – approx. quite crude, printed in red, where we read (badly!): CARTES (...) M. CHAUMONT DEMEU-RANT / AV LION ARME DERRIER LA / MAGDELAINE A LIEGE (NMS, Turnhout)

Philippart, Jean-Pierre: June 8, 1775 th. Marie Catherine Bernardine Deloncin (Ste-Marie-Madeleine); 1789 (Pinchart) – a Pierre Philippart in Namur in 1753 (Arnould 1974)

Philippart, widow : 1792 (Pinchart)

Pétry, Pierre (1766-1833): 07/15/1794 cartier (worker?), ep. Lambertine Catherine Bellaire (Ste-Marguerite, Geneanet), hence 6 children (Geneanet)

Pétry, Jean Joseph (1774-?): 20 ventôse year VII (10/03/1799) cartier (worker?), ep. Marie Françoise Pirotte, from whom 2 children, born in 1799 and 1801 (Geneanet)

Dubois, Ve. (widow of Jean-Baptiste): 1802 (De-solneux, *The key to commerce*)

Dubois, JJ (Jean-Joseph, 1769-1834, fls of Jean-Baptiste), "Dubois fls": 1/08/1793 cartier, 22 years old, in Paris "since last May 31" (AN, Security card) ; 14 messidor year IX (3/07/1801) ep. in 1 in Vigneux (F, Aisne) Marie Rose Augustine de Ville-

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longue (Geneanet) ; 1802 (Desolneux, *The key to commerce* : Dubois fls); 17 April 1802 naiss. of his daughter Rose Augustine Charlotte (Geneanet) ; 02/17/1804 naiss. of his daughter Marie Rose Augustine (Genea-net) ; 2 suction cup year XII (22/02/1804) death of his 1st wife, Marie Rose Augustine de Villelongue (Geneanet); 14 Vendémiaire year XIII (6/10/1804) ep. in 2 in Vigneux (F, Aisne) Marie Jeanne Michel (Geneanet); 08/16/1805 birth. of his son Élie (Genea-net); 2/04/1807 birth. of his son Théodore Narcisse (Geneanet); 10/20/1808 birth. his daughter Eugénie Aspasia (Geneanet); 1806-1813 in 's-Hertogenbosch with his brother (Rijnen); 2/02/1810 birth. his daughter Éléonore (Geneanet); 6/06/1811 birth. his daughter Irène Scholastique (Geneanet); 4/11/1812 birth. of his son Joseph Hyacinthe (Geneanet); 1/01/1816 birth. of his son François-Léon-Silvestre (Geneanet); 1820 rue Haute-Sauvinière (*Guide to factories*, 1821); 1821 rue Haute-Sauvinière (*City of Liège. Municipal elections of 1821: general list of Citizens*) ; 1827 rue Haute-Sauvinière, n° 852 (*Almanac of the trade of Liège, Verviers, Huy, Spa and their surroundings*, 1827); †4/09/1834 in Liège

Pinsmay (Servais?): 1802 (Desolneux, *The key to commerce*)

Simonis : 1802 (Desolneux, *La clef du commerce*)

Saintviteux or Saint-Viteux, Jean-Joseph (1765-1833) : ep. Joséphine Moxhon ; 14 March 1798 b. of his son Jean Joseph Arnold ; c.1810 "St Severin, 711" (Cremers 1994, p. 67 without reference) ; 1826-27 rue Saint-Séverin, n° 711 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1826-27) ; 1830 present at sea. of his son Jean-Joseph-Arnold (Geneanet) ; †March 12, 1833

Dubois, JT (Jean-Théodore, 1771-1856, son of Jean-Baptiste): 1806-1810 in 's-Hertogenbosch with his brother (Rijnen); c.1810? (Cremers 1994, p. 67-68); 1811, 1820 rue Souverain-Pont (*Guide to manufactures*, 1821), 1821 rue Souverain-Pont (*City of Liège. Municipal elections of 1821: general list of Citizens*) ; 1826-27 rue Souverain-Pont, n° 314 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1826-27); 1840 rue sovereign pont, 314 (*Belgian indicator... for the year 1840, LIÈGE*) ; 1840 owns 25 shares of Liégeoise for steam navigation of the Meuse (*Pasinomie: complete collection of laws, decrees, ordinances, orders...*, Brux., 1840, p. 282-3); †02/1/1856, single, without children, his 2 wills in favor of his nephews Hyacinthe and François, are contested (see *La Belgique Judiciaire*, t. XX, No. 27, April 3, 1862, col. 427-429)

Dupont, Jacques: 1820 rue sur Meuse (*Guide to factories*, 1821)

Thonnard: 1826 (*Liège Trade Almanac*, 1826)

Dupont, widow: 1826-27 rue sur Meuse, n° 444 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1826-27)

Saintviteux or Saint-Viteux, Jean-Joseph-Arnold (1798-1849, son of Jean-Joseph): 9/09/1830 card maker, ep. Catherine Josephe Rosalie Lamkin (Geneanet); 8/11/1831 birth. his daughter Joséphine Rosalie Valérie (Geneanet); 3/05/1835 birth. of his son Edmond Denis Arnold; †12/24/1849

Durand, Louis : 1810 cordonnier (Geneanet) ; 1826-27 mapmaker, rue de la Rose, n° 467 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1826-27); 1837 witness of a sea. (Generated)

Déchamps, J.: 1827 (*Almanach du commerce de Liège*, 1827, Mutations)

Dubois, Hyacinthe Joseph (1812-1884, son of Jean-Joseph, nephew of Jean-Théodore Dubois), fab. de cards, rue Haute-Sauvinière, 9: 1834 succeeds his father Jean-Joseph; 1840 rue Haute Sauvinière, 852 (*Belgian indicator... for the year 1840, LIÈGE*) ; September 25, 1850 th. Anna Didot; 03/17/1852 birth. his daughter Marie Anne Eugénie Aline Elise (Geneanet); 6/03/1854 birth. his daughter Marie Angèle Anne Marguerite (Geneanet); 1855 (*City of Liège, List of general, provincial and municipal voters: South District*, Liège, 1855); 1857 transfers the factory to Jean Georges Cluck; 7/09/1861 death of his wife in Chaudfontaine (Geneanet); June 7, 1873 annuitant in Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, present at the wedding of his daughter Marie Anne (Geneanet); †May 13, 1884 in Brussels Schaerbeek (Geneanet)

Dubois, Léon François (°1816, son of Jean-Joseph): September 25, 1850 map maker, witness to the mar. of his brother Joseph Hyacinthe (Geneanet); June 7, 1873 annuitant in *Les Buissons* (Durbuy), witness to the tuesday of his niece Marie Anne Dubois (daughter of Hyacinthe Joseph) (Geneanet)

Cluck, Jean Georges (1816-1879), successor of J. J. Dubois: 1857-1879; before 1844 th. Marie Elisabeth Philippart; September 16, 1844 born. his daughter Marie Agnès Clémence (FamilySearch); Dec 29 1845 born. his daughter Antoinette Marie (FamilySearch); 1857 buys the Dubois factory; 1863 manufacturer of playing cards, rue Haute-Sauvinière, 9 (*Administrative bulletin of the city of Liège*, Liège, 1863, Appendices, "List of general voters") (on G. Cluck, F. Cremers, *ThePC*, XXII-1 , 1993, pp. 3-10)

Muraille, Louis (1840-1896): May 12, 1866 th. Marie Agnès Clémence Cluck, daughter of Jean Georges Cluck (FamilySearch); 1879 successor to his father-in-law, Jean Georges Cluck; Louis Muraille Cluck, stationer and office supplier in Liège, †February 29, 1896; the Cluck house still in operation in 1906 with his widow (†May 15, 1915)

And two card engravers:

Depas, Pierre Paul: 2nd half of the 18th century. ; taxed (capitation) in 1762; cf. T. Depaulis, "A Liège map engraver", *ThePC*, 47-1, 2018, p. 10-13

Pinsar, Jacques-Joseph (1783-1853): 1826 "Pinsar JJ, (*Polytype for Printers*), rue des Ravets, n. 391." (*Almanac of the trade of Liège, Verviers, Huy, Spa and their surroundings*. Liège, 1826, METAL ENGRAVERS) ; Jacques-Joseph Pinsar was also a bit of a poet, author of several pieces in the Walloon Liège dialect.

Some abbreviations:

AE Liège: State Archives in Liège

appr. : apprentice

of. : avant

arch. : archive(s)

BM : British Museum

bp. : baptized

approx. : envelope

ep. : marry

Tue: wedding

born. : birth

NMS: National Museum of Playing Cards

ThePC : *The Playing-Card*

VC: Jack of Hearts

VK: valet de carreau

VP: pique valet

VT: valet de trefe

References: see the article



Gilles Demarteau after Charles Nicolas Cochin II, *Woman Playing Cards*, 1770, crayon-manner etching print. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/821866>.