



« Félicien Rops » museum



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ABSTRACT

General presentation

The Félicien Rops Museum

The idea of founding a museum dedicated to Félicien Rops in Namur was mentioned before the Second World War by Governor François Bovesse. However, it was necessary to wait for the creation, in 1960, of the "Félicien Rops's Friends" association to get this project concretized.

On November 28, 1960, the province of Namur approved the creation of a Félicien-Rops Museum, which was located in the hotel Gaiffier Hestroy, rue de Fer in Namur. The collection was initially made up of a large donation from Count Visart de Bocarmé and works from the Namur Art and History Museums, from Château des Rops in Thozée or acquired by a provincially designated buying commission.



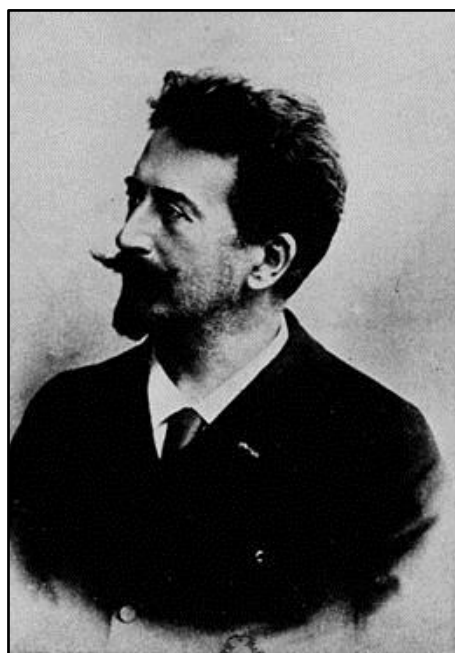
The collection expanded, the museum moved in 1987 to the old part of Namur in the premises that it still occupies today. This building, dating from the early eighteenth century was not randomly chosen. It is indeed related to Rops's story. It's his wife's childhood home, Charlotte Polet de Faveaux.

The museum accommodates a permanent exhibition as well as other temporary exhibitions. A documentation center is also available.

Rops : the character

BIOGRAPHY

- **1833** : July 7, birth of Félicien Victor Joseph Rops in Namur.
- **1844** : Student at the Jesuit College in Namur.
- **1849** : Death of his father.
Joins the Athénée in Namur.
Begins the Academy of Fine Arts in Namur.
- **1851** : Registration at the Free University of Brussels.
Becomes a member of the Merry Society and draws The Devil at the Salon.
- **1853** : Attends Workshop Saint-Luc in Brussels.
Joined the Crocodile Society.



Portrait de Félicien Rops (vers 1898).



- **1856-59** : Founded with Charles De Coster, L'Uylenspiegel, journal of the artistic and literary freaks which will be published until 1863. Marries Charlotte Polet de Faveaux and lives between Namur, Brussels and the castle of Thozée. Engraves illustrations for the Flemish Legends of Charles De Coster. Publishes political lithographs. Birth of his son Paul. Birth of his daughter Juliette who will die 5 years later.
- **1862** : Regularly stays in Paris where he studies engraving. Creates the Royal Nautical Club of Sambre and Meuse where he practices rowing. Meeting with Auguste Poulet-Malassis, publisher (34 frontispieces between 1864 and 1870).
- **1864** : Meeting with Charles Baudelaire in May, in Namur.
- **1866** : Frontispiece of the wrecks of Baudelaire. Meeting with Edmond and Jules de Goncourt.
- **1867** : Illustrations The legend and the heroic, joyful and glorious adventures of Uylenspiegel and Lamme Goedzak in Flanders and elsewhere of Charles De Coster.
- **1868** : Foundation of the Free Society of Fine Arts in Brussels (vice-presidency between 1870 and 1876). Creation of the colony Anseremme, on the banks of the Meuse.
- **1869** : Foundation of the International Society of Aquafortists in Brussels (1869-1871 and 1874-1877). Romantic relationship in Paris with Léontine and Aurélie Duluc, two fashion sisters.
- **1870** : Drawings and sketches on the battlefield of Sedan.
- **1871** : Birth of Claire, Léontine Duluc's daughter.
- **1873** : Begin of the series « Four ladies and the jumping jack » (1873-1890) that will lead him to allegory and symbolism.
- **1874** : Divorced to his legitimate spouse. Travel to Norway and Sweden.
- **1875** : Definitive residence in Paris. Create between 1875 and 1882, realistic works like Bouge à matelots, L'Attrapade, La Buveuse d'absinthe.
- **1878** : Creation of two major works : Saint Antoine's Temptation and Pornocratès. Begins a series of 114 drawings : Les Cent Légers Croquis sans prétention pour réjouir les honnêtes gens.
- **1879** : Travel in Hungary. Publishes his first work's reasoned directory engraved by Maurice Bonvoisin, AKA Mars.
- **1880** : Travel to Spain.
- **1881** : Work together with Gay and Doucé, Belgian publishers (12 frontispices in 1 year).
- **1882** : Sataniques series.
- **1884** : Contribution to the first exhibition of the group XX. Meeting with Auguste Rodin. Illustration of the supreme Vice of Joséphin Péladan. Buys Demi-Lune, estate in Corbeil-Essonnes (Paris). Illustrations for Les Diaboliques of Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly.
- **1886** : Nominated « vintiste ». Exhibition with the group in 1887, 1888, 1889 and 1893.

- **1887** : Travel to the United States. Frontispiece La Grande Lyre for the Mallarmé's Poetries. Publishing the descriptive and analytic directory of Félicien Rops' engraved work by Eugène Rodrigues, AKA Erastène Ramiro.
- **1888** : Contact with Paul Verlaine for the frontispiece of Parallèlement. Meeting with Belgian editor Edmond Deman.
Working together with engraver from Liège Armand Rassenfosse for the creation of a clear soft polish: the Ropsenfosse.
Travel in North Africa.
- **1889** : Gets the Legion of Honor.
- **1892** : Birth and death of Jacques, Aurélie Duluc's son.
- **1896** : Exhibition at the Free Aesthetic trade fair (also in 1897 and 1899).
Big success for the feature « Rops » of La Plume magazine in Paris.
- **1898** : Death on August 23 in Corbeil-Essonnes, in his Demi-Lune estate, cared by Léontine and Aurélie Duluc, Claire and his closest friends..

