

Bridging Art, Museums, School, Trainers and Trainees

A Belgian Historical Perspective
Reflection on some pioneering & present examples

Fachtag KUNST+BILDUNG.
Dreiländereck der Lehrenden und Lernenden
Aachen, Kornelimünster

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My daughter, suggested to present myself as a « museum object »
due to my way of connecting the dots between schools, museums, teaching,
trainers, trainees, museum education & culture

Personal background

School in three languages & on three continents

University (ULB - Université libre de Bruxelles):
MA Art History & Archaeology, MA Anthropology,
BA Education

Librarian and Museum Management certificates

Double career as teacher, docent and museum educator at Belgian
and international levels and different types of institutions

Museums, Schools, Training and Teaching Nowadays



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES



Enseignement

2005: Pact for Educational Excellence The Cultural and Artistic Education Programme - PECA

Connaitre. Pratiquer. Rencontrer / To know, practice and meet

All pupils aged 3 to 15 must benefit from intern and extern cultural and artistic activities linked to following three forms of expression:

French language and physical expression,

Musical expression and

Visual arts

PECA KEY FIGURES

2

Activities per school
year for all pupils
Inside & outside

3

components
to know - practice - meet

10

territorial zones

29 cultural specialists

4.946.393 € (2024)
7,6 millions € foreseen 2030

900.000
pupils concerned
ca. 35000 classes

See: www.pecan.be

BUT ... Are so many rules and administration really necessary?

How did things work before the PECA? Former official initiatives less bureaucratic



« Culture is what connects knowledge and makes it fruitful »
(Edgar Morin)

Various projects within the department Culture - Enseignement

- *Les chemins de traverse*: annual projects between schools, museums & enterprises
- *L'Ecole et la Ville : Cool les musées ?* Spécial Commission communautaire française, Bruxelles, 2007
- Culture - Enseignement now replaced by PECA with a rich website



Reflexions which led to the PECA

03

L'INDISPENSABLE RÉVOLUTION

Culture et création
au coeur de l'enseignement

SOUS LA DIRECTION DE SABINE DE VILLE



Culture & Démocratie
2014

LES CAHIERS DE CULTURE ET DÉMOCRATIE

02

LA CULTURE AU CŒUR DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT

Un vrai défi démocratique

Actes du colloque organisé
le 17 novembre 2008
à Bruxelles



Journal de Culture et Démocratie 56
**Le PECA, de nouveaux rituels pour
l'école, 2023 - Sabine de Ville**

Museums and Schools: a long international history for UNESCO, ICOM and the CECA committee

Museum

Vol VI, n° 4, 1953

**The role of museums in
education: UNESCO
International Seminar,
Brooklyn, 1952**

**Le rôle des musées dans
l'éducation : Stage d'études
international de l'UNESCO,
Brooklyn, 1952**





1985: article *Combining Museum Education and Teaching*
CECA News, Market of ideas

Institute Funck - secretary secondary school

(1972-1979) - secretary and teacher

- Classes of art history for all 100 pupils at lunch time initiated by the headmistress and paid with the money of the waffles sold during the break!
- Pupils asked to paint their classroom with an artist while I was on temporary archaeological leave
- For these pupils often a first contact with 'culture'

Many other secondary schools: professional, technical,
artistic: Institut des Arts & métiers,
Institut Bischoffsheim,
Académie royale des Beaux-arts
&
Higher education:

Royal Art Academy Brussels
Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB
Senghor University Alexandria, Egypt
Art Academy, Kinshasa, RDC

Always in combination with
museum education

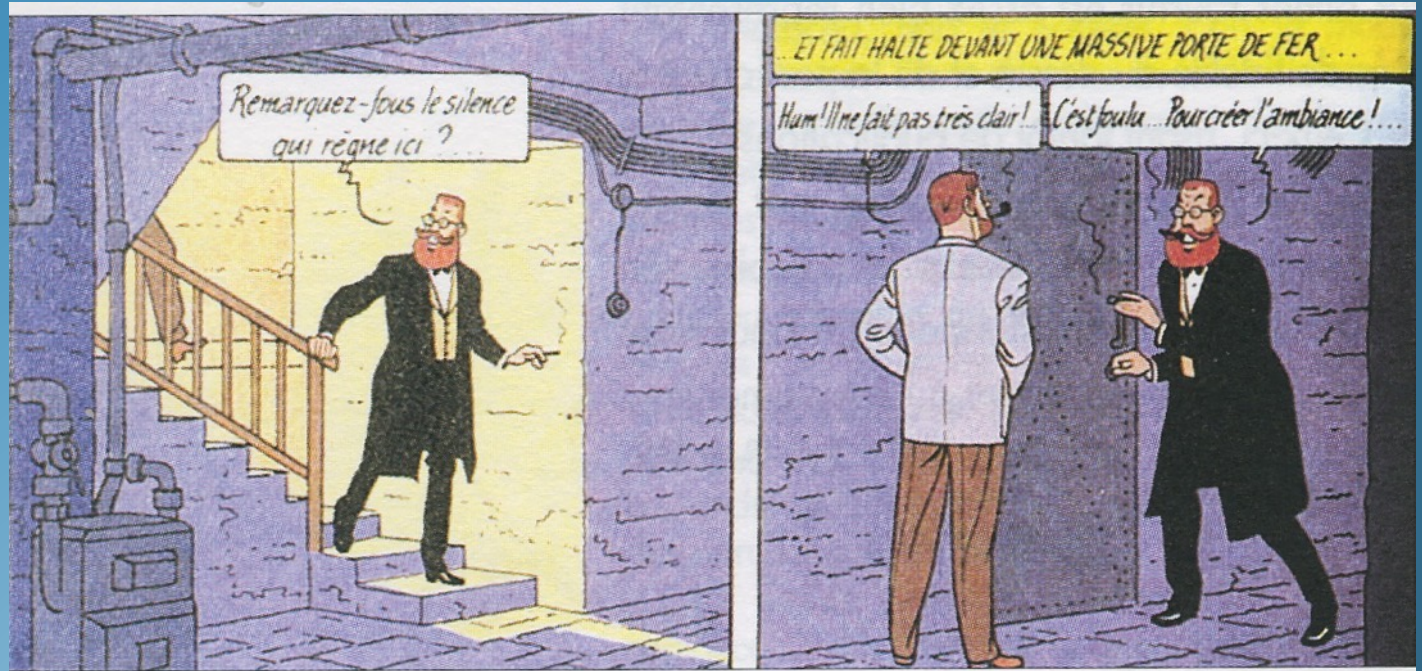
Discovering the pioneering role of Belgium in linking museums and education

- Jean CAPART (1877-1947): a visionary

“The ‘scientific’ must inform the ‘educational’ while ensuring a clear distinction between the two roles. A scholar does not inherently possess the qualities of a teacher, nor does an educator automatically qualify as a researcher.”
(Jean Capart, *Le Temple des Muses*, 1932, p. 90)



1922: Creation of the first Belgian
education department



E. P. JACOBS, Blake et Mortimer. *Le mystère de la Grande Pyramide*, t.2, *La Chambre d'Horus*, Dargaud, 1987, p. 4 © Dargaud

Exchange & transmission The ICOM-CECA committee

Editor ICOM Education
N°7 → 28 (1975-2018)



Cover: Philippe de Gobert

1970

Belgian bilingual working group on education in museums Commission Education et Action culturelle dans les Musées



Royal Museums for Art & History (museum educator 1972-1999) & CECA secretary's assistant (1978-1981)

- Guided tours
- Recognition of the profession of museum education (1980)
- History classes at the museum with a local school combining ex-cathedra lessons in the conference hall and visit to the related collections
- 1979 : International Year of the Child - conception of museum games for schoolchildren
- Teachers' pack in relation to temporary exhibitions
- Leisure time lectures for young visitors : Clio Jeunesse





Todos los caminos llevan a Roma

Juego en el Foro Romano

30 mayo 1998



Legio hispanica
Cohors I

CECA EUROPEAN PROJECT ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME (1996-1998)

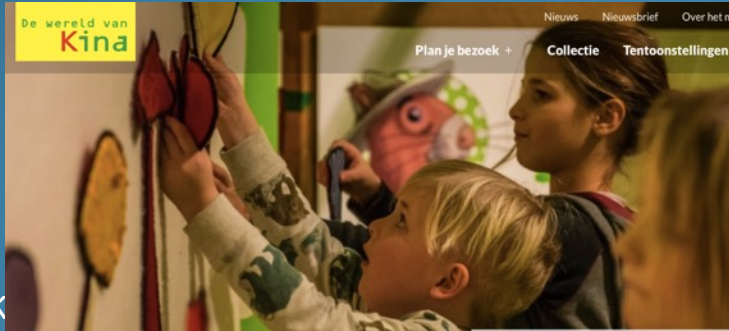
A Challenging Project for pupils 15-18 led by
museum education departments

Research on the history of museum education and schools in Belgium

1924 : Ghent, **Schoolmuseum Michel Thiery** (today De Wereld van Kina)



Roland Verstraelen
© De wereld van K



1934 : - Brussels, **Royal Institute of Natural Sciences**

- - Royal Museum of Mariemont
- Germaine Faider-Feytmans (1903-1983)





Volume I : CECA History of Museum Education - Belgium - 2019
From Jean Capart to the 21st C.

Parallel teaching activities reflecting on the relation trainer - trainee

Who trains who?



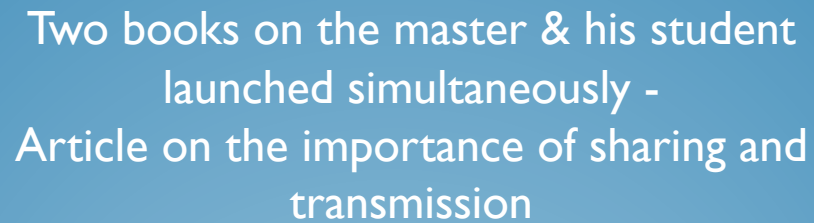
1933-1935: Nicolas de Stael is a student at the Royal Art Academy in Brussels and in Saint-Gilles

His professor Géo De Vlaminck (1897-1980) associated his student in the creation of The Glass Pavillion at the International Exhibition of 1935 in Brussels

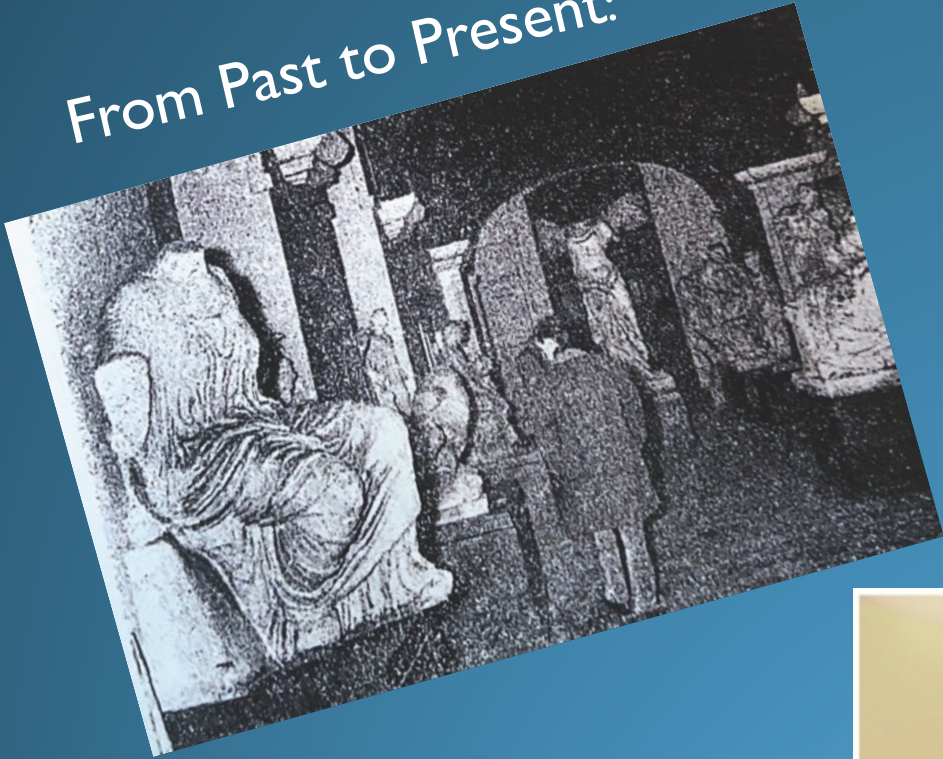
In 2010 two ULB students analyse his monumental paintings and mosaics



2025: 2nd completed edition of the catalogue of the exhibition



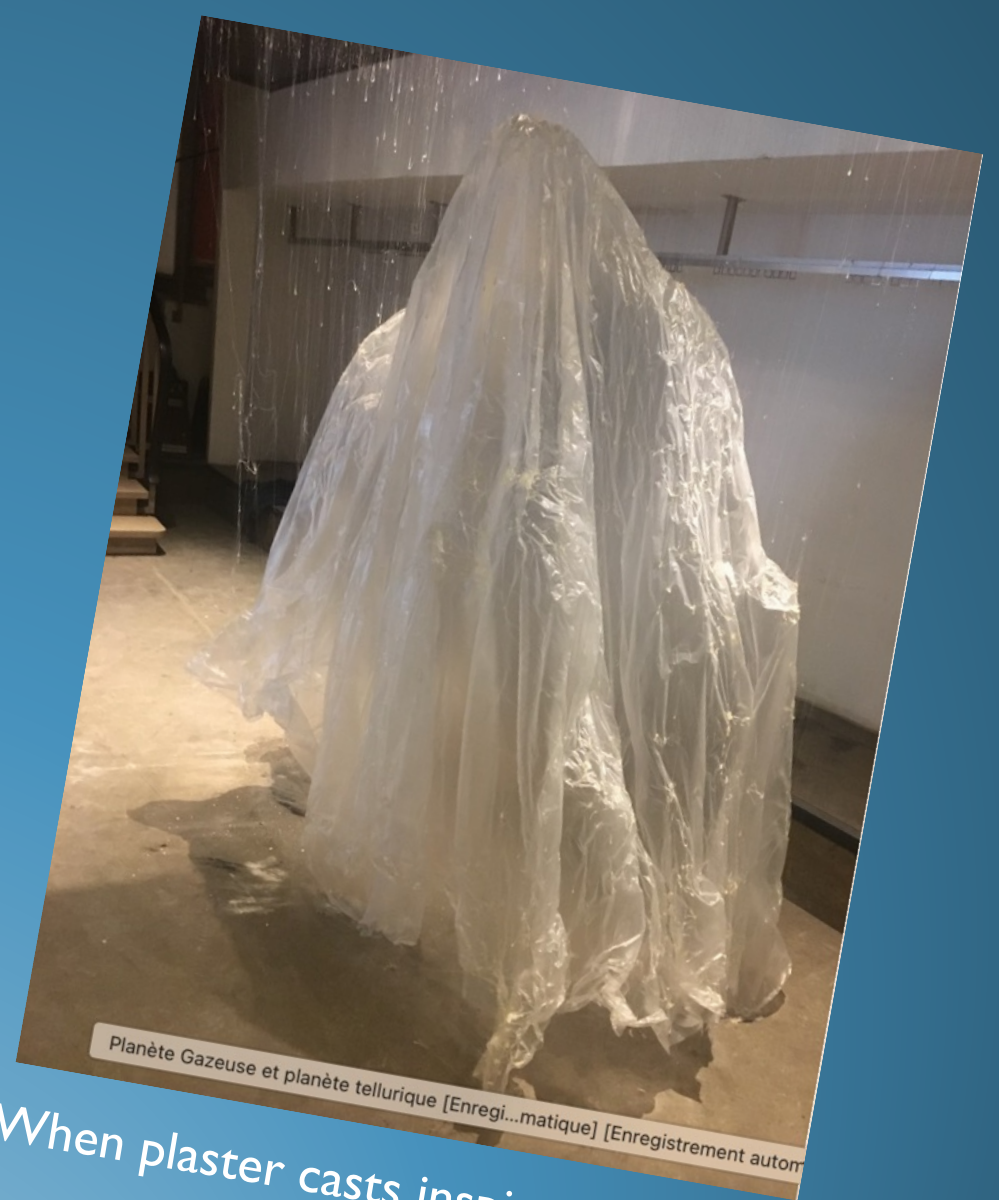
From Past to Present:



Exhibition dilemmas discussed
with the students, restorers,
curators and professors



When plaster casts inspire present students



Challenging Activities for the ULB Museums Network*

Nicole Gesché-Koning & Nathalie Nyst



In keeping with the Belgian motto of "Strength through unity" the ULB museums were grouped to overcome their varied status due to scattered geographical locations, disparities in infrastructures and human, financial and operating resources, not to mention the university community's lack of familiarity with its rich collections.

Since 2003, the Network has had two main objectives: developing its image and streamlining management of its collections. Twice a year it organizes challenging federating activities finding linking topics through as varied collections as medicine, art, pharmacy, science, literature, zoology,.... These activities ensure its promotion and visibility among the public and recognition in the world of museums and collections.

Ten years existence of the Network (2004-2014)

- Museums and collections on 4 campus in Brussels and 2 in Wallonia
- Strong identity within the institution
- Heritage awareness within the institution and outside
- Promotion of the heritage of the university



- Protection of endangered collections
- Collaboration and exchanges
- Participation in international and national conferences (CECA, UMAC, Universeum, Science gatherings and competitions,...)
- Facebook : Object of the month
- Photo competition
- Publications : Catalogues, museums brochure, Newsletter



- Organisation of joint exhibitions :
 - ULBulles (Comics and university collections)
 - Unsuspected Beauties of Research
 - Les musées de l'ULB emboîtés



Whatever the topic, the main challenge of the common activities organized by the Network is finding appropriate linking topics through as varied collections as medicine, art, pharmacy, science, literature, zoology, botanic ! The creativity of each museum is in this field quite astonishing.

www.ulb.ac.be/musees

* Member of ICOM UMAC

University training opportunities for trainees Network of Museums of the ULB



« The alliance of museum and university gives sense to our engagement to train students to reflect critically and with sensitivity in an open linked society in transition » (N. Nyst)

Secret of good innovative projects - Love for ALL people and Love for transmission

Hospitals do much; they make sick men healthier; museums of art do more; they make healthy people better” (Capart, 1932, p. 95) and so should schools

Paraphrasing former head of education & wife of higher school director as museum director:

“Museums & schools must be accessible to ALL
Accessible in the fullest sense of the word:

- to encourage contacts,
- to allow the works to speak,
- to decipher messages and
- to teach people to read the signs of the past.”

*Transform museums & schools in places of questioning,
places of cultural destabilisation, which question our knowledge
and interrogate the visitor and trainees while enhancing freedom*

