

Dominique STRAUS

(environs 1772-1855)

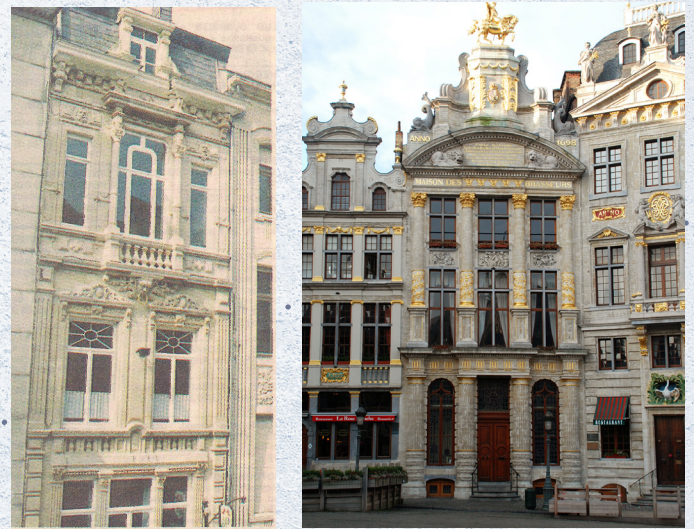
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Following a decision by Emperor Joseph II that every church should have a clock, Dominique Straus came to Arlon from Austria at the end of the 18th century.

A master clockmaker in Vienna, he emigrated to the western edge of the German-speaking part of the Austrian empire, living for a time in Remich, where he installed dials on the steeples of the Moselle valley.

At the age of twenty, he and his wife finally settled in Arlon, where he became a pioneer in this field. In 1795, he bought the building at 1 Grand-Rue and founded the Straus "A l'Anneau d'Or" clockmaking company.

Initially, the family were shunned by the locals. The compulsory installation of "time-measuring machines" in every village offended the rural mentality in the farthest reaches of the empire. The emperor's decree radically changed the way people quantified time and measured portions of the day. Gone were the days when they had to mark time by the cock's crow, the sun at its peak, the cool of the Vespers hour and so on.



L'aspect actuel de la maison lui a été donné entre 1870 et 1880 par Edmond, le petit-fils de Dominique, qui a reproduit fidèlement la prestigieuse horlogerie bruxelloise, chez Grottenieck, Place royale, où il avait été apprenti. Les affaires de la maison Straus ont cessé en 1960 lorsqu'Edouard, fils d'Edmond, abandonne le commerce. Edouard a été quelques temps l'apprenti du sculpteur arlonais Jean Gaspar.

Sources : Arlon Carrefour

