

Voyage et antiquités à la fin XVI^e siècle

Les « monuments » antiques et médiévaux dans *l'Itinerarium* d'Ortelius et Vivianus (1584)

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Introduction

- Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598):
 - A major figure of the Renaissance
 - A famous cartographer (*Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1570), but also an antiquarian and a traveller
- The 1575 journey from Antwerp to Frankfurt:
 - An « antiquarian trip »
 - The group: Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598), Jean Vivien / Vivianus (c. 1520-1598), Jan Van Schille (c. 1510-1586) and Hieronymus Scholiers (b. 1553)
- Travelogue published in 1584: the *Itinerarium per nonnullas Galliae Belgicae partes*
 - First edition: c. 1,500 copies
 - Several reprints
 - Influence and reception in scholarly circles

Up: Abraham Ortelius visiting Tivoli; down: the Poitiers “pierre levée” (standing stone) with a graffito by Ortelius

BRAUN G., *Civitates orbis terrarum*, vol. 2 and 3, Antwerp, 1588, unpag. [BUMP (Bibliothèque universitaire Moretus Plantin, Namur), R16C0015]

ITINERARIUM
PER NONNVLAS

Gallia Belgica partes,

ABRAHAMI ORTELII ET
IOANNIS VIVIANI.

AD GERARDVM MERCATOREM,
COSMOGRAPHVM.



ANTVERPIÆ,
Ex officina Christophori Plantini.
MDC. LXXXIV.

The *Itinerarium*

- The *Itinerarium*:
 - 76 pages ; in -8°
 - A letter to Gerardus Mercator (1512-1594)
 - Publication 9 years after the journey
- Travel account published and signed jointly by Ortelius and Vivianus
- Few details on the conditions of the journey (means of transport, accommodation, security measures during the war, etc.)

The *Itinerarium*

○ Travel itinerary:

- Brabant : Antwerp, Mechelen, Leuven, Walhain, Gembloux
- Namur
- Prince-Bishopric of Liège: Huy, Tongeren, Liège, Spa
- Stavelot
- Luxembourg: Vielsalm, Houffalize, Bastogne, Martelange, Arlon, Luxembourg
- Lorraine: Nancy, Metz, Thionville...
- Luxembourg: Grevenmacher, Igel
- Trier
- Koblenz

○ ± 800 km (± 500 miles) – sept.-oct. 1575



Abbildung 3:

Der Reiseweg und die besuchten Orte des *Itinerarium* in heutiger Darstellung, (6).
Entwurf: Klaus Schmidt-Ott, Kartographie: Stephan Ackermann

ORTELIUS A., VIVIANUS J., *Itinerarium per nonnullas Galliae Belgicae partes*, ed. K. SCHMIDT-OTT, Frankfurt, 2000, p. 278.



Abraham Ortelius by Peter Paul Rubens
[Museum Plantin-Moretus, Prentenkabinet]

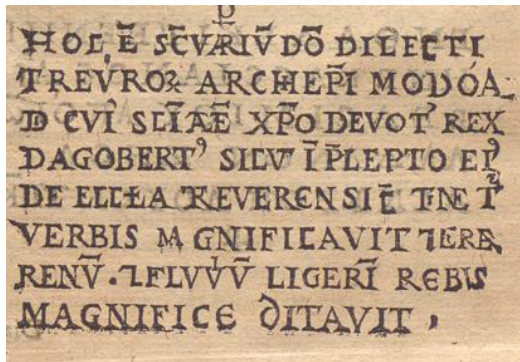
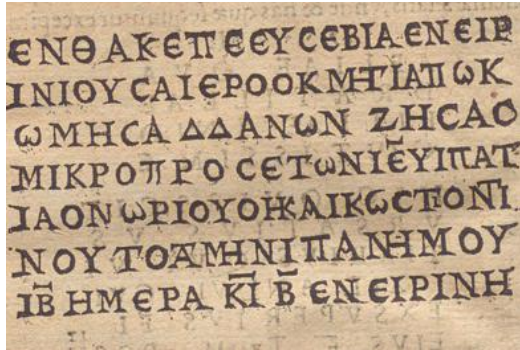
The *Itinerarium*

- The aims of the trip:
 - Commercial: to visit the Frankfurt trade fair (books)
 - Social: to meet scholars along the way:
 - Leuven: Divaeus (1535-1581)
 - Liège: Dominique Lampson (1532-1599), Laevinus Torrentius (1525-1595), Arnold de Wachtendonck (1538-1605)
 - Luxembourg: Jean Mofflin (d. 1587), Pierre-Ernest de Mansfeld (1517-1604)
 - Metz: Jean Daubri
 - Scholarly: to collect and study the "monuments" of the region:
 - Ancient geography: a correspondence between ancient place names and (early) modern geography
 - Antiquarianism: the emergence of an interest in local antiques > inventory and description

Collecting ancient and medieval inscriptions

- The search for inscriptions: one of the main objectives
 - 32 inscriptions copied (76 pages)
 - 12 different places: mainly the Clausen Castle / Luxembourg (9 inscriptions), Trier (7 inscriptions), Metz and Nancy (4 inscriptions each)
- Significant verbs:
 - *Legimus* (and *vidimus*): the authors' fieldwork and the *autopsia*
 - This enabled them to gather new data or correct the copying errors of their predecessors
 - In the case of the *Itinerarium*, most of the texts collected were unpublished
 - *Excipimus* ("we collect"): the desire to collect unpublished data

Collecting ancient and medieval inscriptions



- Copying ancient and medieval inscriptions :
 - Transcription respecting the caesura between the different lines
 - Generally reliable data (but some transcription errors and four forgeries)
 - Inscriptions mainly in Latin (26)
 - 3 in Old French, 2 bilingual (medieval Latin-Old French), 2 Greek inscriptions
 - Faithfull reproduction of the characters observed, whether Greek or medieval Latin
 - In general, only the text is transcribed
 - Exceptions: some ancient inscriptions (Samson/Namèche, Trier and Clausen)

Left: a Greek inscription (IG XIV 2559) and a forged Medieval inscription from Trier.

Right: Roman funerary inscriptions from Trier (CIL XIII 3750) and Namèche (CIL XIII 3618) with their support.

ORTELIUS A., VIVIANUS J., *Itinerarium...*, p. 14, 55, 59 and 60 [Coll. King Baudouin Foundation, gift of Philippe de Dorlodot, on deposit at the BUMP, R6A-0403].

Collecting ancient and medieval inscriptions

- Generally, only the text ; no historical comments
- The Igel Column :
 - Reading the inscription enabled Ortelius and Vivianus to understand the funerary nature of the monument and its link with a local family (Secundini) >< local traditions
 - The inscription as the key to deciphering the meaning of a monument
 - The text of the inscription is enlarged and appears at the bottom of the engraving
- In general, however, the analysis of the data collected is not at the heart of the two authors' approach: it is more a question of collecting the data and offering it to the reader

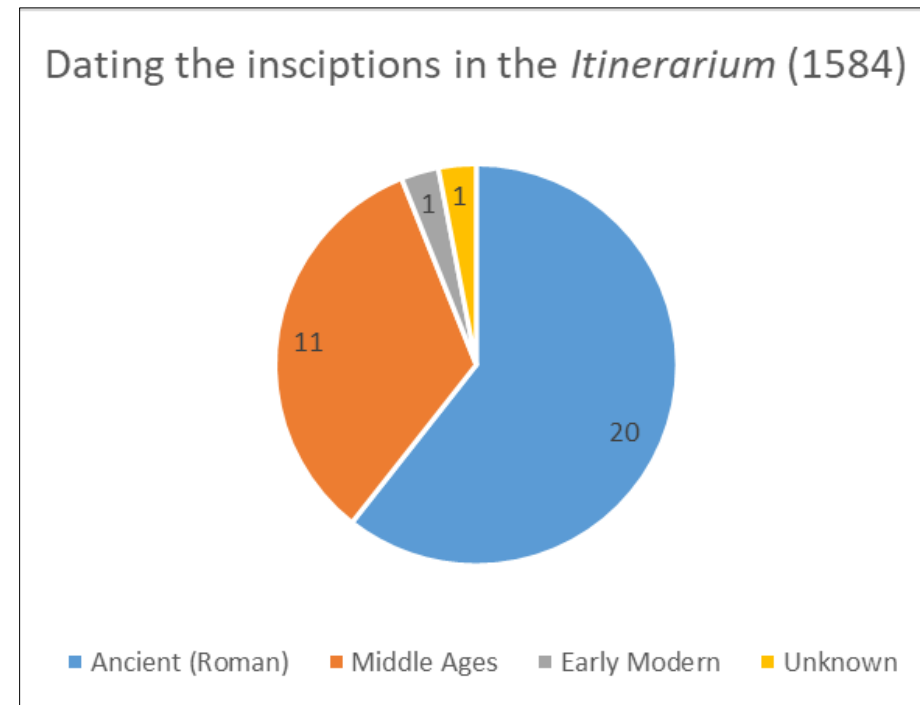


The Igel Column and its inscription

ORTELIUS A., VIVIANUS J., *Itinerarium...*, p. 53 A [Coll. King Baudouin Foundation, gift of Philippe de Dorlodot, on deposit at the BUMP, R6A-0403].

Collecting ancient and medieval inscriptions

- Authors not only interested in ancient texts: a third of the inscriptions (11/33) can be dated to the medieval period
- Italian humanism (rejection of the Middle Ages) >< Ortelius and Vivianus (interest in the medieval “monuments”)
 - Also medieval manuscripts (Gembloux, Liège); the origins of Leuven
- In Trier (St Paulin church), they copied *inscriptiones antiquae aut mediae aetatis*
- Not only the early Middle Ages (Christianization of the region)
 - E.g.: forged inscription mentioning Bishop Modoald of Trier (early VIIth c.)



Author, 2024

Collecting ancient and medieval inscriptions

- E.g.: the tomb effigy of Thierry II of Houffalize (1282)
 - Description of the “monument” (gothic style): coat of arms (colours), lion...
 - Copying the inscription: *Chi gist Meßires Thieris Sires de Hufalize, Ki deuiat l’an de graffe mil he cc. quatre* [here lies Sir Thierry d'Houffalize who died in 1204]
 - Text incomplete (end of inscription missing) : 1282 and not 1204
- Other inscriptions, notably epitaphs of Jean de Mandeville (d. 1372) or the Duke of Burgundy Charles the Bold (1433-1477)
- No derogatory terms, except for an ironic remark about the inelegance of the medieval Latin used in a Lorraine inscription

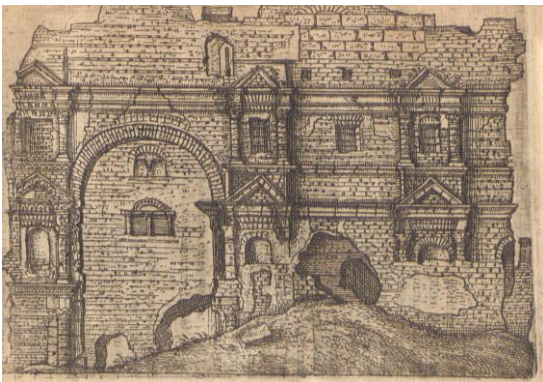
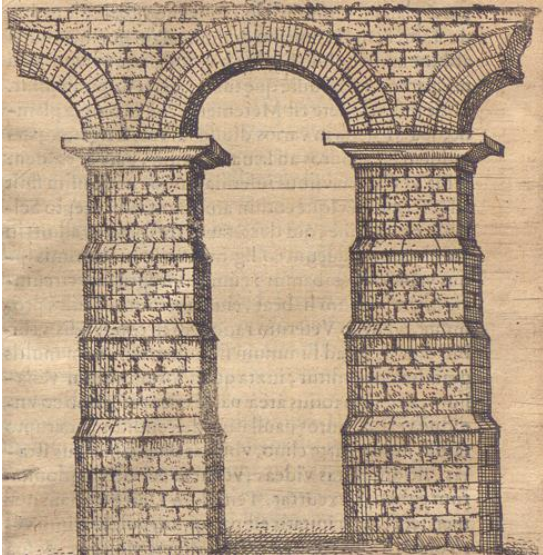


Tomb effigy: Thierry II of Houffalize (1282)

CC-BY KIK-IRPA, Brussels (Belgium), cliché B010120

<https://balat.kikirpa.be/photo.php?path=B010120&objnr=10084742&nr=87>

Observing architectural remains



Left: the aqueduct of Jouy-aux-arches (top) and the Barbara baths (bottom); right: the Sarpaigne bas-relief

ORTELIUS A., VIVIANUS J., *Itinerarium...*, p. 45, 47 and 57 [Coll. King Baudouin Foundation, gift of Philippe de Dorlodot, on deposit at the BUMP, R6A-0403].

- A keen interest in architectural remains, especially from the Roman period:
 - The only ones to be presented through engravings (≠ medieval and early modern buildings)
 - Jouy-aux-arches (Lorraine): a Roman aqueduct
 - Trier: Barbara baths, Porta Nigra (St.-Simeon church), Roman bridge
 - Igel column :
 - Dimensions (height)
 - Copy of the inscription
 - Description of the main bas-relief and brief mention of the other bas-reliefs
- Limited interest in bas-reliefs: only one engraving
 - Horsewoman seen at Sarpaigne (Lorraine), probably the goddess Epona

Observing architectural remains

- Also less common 'monuments':
 - The Roman burial mounds or tumuli (Hesbaye region):
 - Observation and description (Walhain and Tongeren)
 - Origins : Romans or Gauls
 - The Roman road from Bavay to Tongeren:
 - Identification: Ancient sources
 - Interested in the materials (stone and gravel) used by the Romans
 - Refutation of the local tradition (Gallic king named Brunehaut): Caesar did not mention the road
 - In general, the authors did not hesitate to collect the local traditions, refuting them (observations and consultation of ancient sources)



One of the tumulus of Libersart (Walhain) - author, 2018



Observing architectural remains

- Although Roman infrastructures are the main object of study for Ortelius and Vivianus, they are also interested in the more recent past of the region:
 - Medieval ruins :
 - Altmünster Abbey (*ruinas*) in Luxembourg
 - St.-Maximin Abbey in Trier, "damaged" by fire (*incendio deformatum est*)
 - Gothic churches:
 - St.-Stephen cathedral in Metz: "the most beautiful building seen on our journey" (*plucherrimum vero opus, si quod aliud toto hoc itinere vidimus*)
 - Saint-Nicolas-de-Port basilica (Lorraine): an imposing and luminous building ; admiration for the finesse and height of its columns
 - "Composite" buildings: St.-Laurent Abbey in Liège (*magnificum ac nobile*), originally medieval but extensive restoration and enlargement in the XVIth c.
 - More recent edifices: Pierre-Ernest de Mansfeld's palace in Clausen – Luxembourg (from 1563)

Conclusion

- The *Itinerarium*: a key testimony to the practice of "antiquarian" travel
- The itinerary adopted reflects a desire to reconcile commercial (to go to Frankfurt), social (to meet other scholars) and "antiquarian" (to collect sources and learn about the ancient geography of the region) objectives
- Focus on inscriptions (around thirty copied) and architectural structures:
 - Personal observation / *autopsia*
 - Interest in the remains of both Roman Antiquity and the Middle Ages
 - Primacy of Roman antiquities over medieval monuments, but generally positive reception for the latter (≠ Italian humanism)
- Limited analyses and comments ; main aim: to collect and locate sources accurately, to provide reliable data for later work on ancient geography or the study of specific "monuments"
- Ortelius and Vivianus undoubtedly achieved this objective by preserving the memory of many of them, now destroyed or damaged

Thank you for your attention!

