

## THE FORNEY LIBRARY

Thanks to a donation given to the City of Paris by Aimé-Samuel Forney, a businessman who wanted to bring back into favour artistic craftsmanship at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Forney library was inaugurated on the 27<sup>th</sup> february 1886, at n°12 rue Titon, 11<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, in the middle of Faubourg St Antoine, a cabinet makers and woodworkers neighbourhood.

At first exclusively dedicated to artistic or decorative craftsmanship and visited by cabinet makers, ceramists, or painters, its specialisation enlarged to art in general, and saw its readers change to students in art history, and architecture, fashion professionals, graphic artists or designers, particularly when it moved in 1961 to the Hôtel de Sens, in the heart of the Marais.

Nowadays it is a specialized City of Paris library, with open and free access, and a reference in France concerning artistic craftsmanship, fine arts, decorative arts and graphic arts

## NUMEROUS SPECIALISATIONS

- Fine arts : painting, sculpture, architecture, drawing, engraving...
- Decorative arts : costume, interior decoration, design, furniture, tapestries, fabrics, wallpapers, jewelry, ceramics, stained glass...
- Graphic arts : bookmaking, posters and advertising arts ...
- Artistic crafts : woodworking, ironworking, weaving, glassmaking ...

## COLLECTIONS

- Books from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to present day
- Periodicals
- Exhibition catalogues, museum catalogues, auction catalogues and commercial catalogues
- Posters, 19<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary
- Wallpapers, printed fabrics, textile samplers
- Printed advertisements, ephemera

## BOOK LOAN

The Forney library is also a lending library: after registration you can borrow 8 books and 8 periodicals for 3 weeks.

## EXHIBITIONS (Tuesday to Saturday, 13.00 to 19.00 p.m.)

The library organises in-house exhibitions of its own graphic collections, but also visiting exhibitions promoting artistic craftsmanship and decorative arts. Catalogues are regularly published, along with postcards reproducing precious documents. The Society of Friends of the Forney Library supports its worldwide reputation.

## ACCESS

Métro : Pont-Marie or Saint-Paul  
Bus : 67, 69, 76, 86, 87, 96

2013

**TOUTE L'INFO  
au 3975\* et  
sur PARIS.FR**

\*Prix d'un appel local à partir d'un poste fixe sauf tarif propre à votre opérateur



*english*

# TOWNHOUSE OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF SENS



## FORNEY library

1, rue du Figuier Paris 4<sup>e</sup>

TEL 01 42 78 14 60

[bibliotheque.forney@paris.fr](mailto:bibliotheque.forney@paris.fr)

## OPENING HOURS

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday : 13.00 - 19.30

Wednesday, Thursday : 10.00 - 19.30

CLOSED on Sundays and Mondays

MAIRIE DE PARIS



The Hôtel de Sens is one of the few surviving medieval civic residences we have. Commissioned by Tristan de Salazar, archbishop of Sens, and built between 1475 and 1519, it is a dual-purpose building, half-domestic and half-military. Certain elements of the building recall a medieval fortress : two circular turrets of corbelled construction and shaped like pepper-shakers frame the main façade of rue du Figuier at either angle, while a third stands on the building's corner on the rue de l'Hôtel de Ville. These watchtowers are real rather than ornamental, intended to guarantee the building security and located in spots which allow surveillance of the neighbouring streets. An engaged tower like a kind of keep dominates the edifice. In contrast, the elegant gothic porch, formerly ornamented by decorative sculpture of extreme delicacy, the entrance vault with its fine pointed arcatures and the high emblazoned windows, all indicate a sumptuous domestic residence.

The house interior has suffered a great deal of damage over the centuries ; nevertheless, the visitor to the ground floor hall can still admire a most majestic fireplace, marked by elegant decorative moulding and the tower handsome spiral staircase.

So perfect an achievement could only be the result of the initiative of a man of taste. And indeed, Tristan de Salazar (1441-1519), son of the Spanish captain who saved Louis XI at Monthéry in 1465, was a prime example of a humanist prelate enamoured of arts and letters. To judge by the beautifully bound books bearing his coat of arms - most notably "Les Décrets de Gratien" - now housed in the Arsenal's library, he possessed an extensive collection of volumes. He was not adverse to the new art of "artificial writing" (print) and is thought to have commissioned the first printed breviary for the use of Sens.

His architectural commissions were no less important. His love of building is well-known and it was under his bishopric that the famous architect Martin Chambige finished Sens Cathedral.

The archbishop of Sens, Primate of the Gauls and Germania, which included seven suffragant bishoprics, Paris among them, was personal counsellor to three kings of France (Louis XI, Charles VIII, Louis XII). His duties often called him to Paris and he needed something more satisfactory to a modern taste than the Hôtel of Jean d'Hestomesnil, built in the now-outmoded style of 1345 and given by King Charles V to Guillaume de Melun for his Parisian dwelling. Once elevated to the Archbishopric of Sens in 1474, Tristan had the old, decaying building pulled down and began at once the construction of its present successor. In the end, Tristan did not live to enjoy his new residence, plans for which he may well have discussed with Martin Chambige : at his death, aged 78 in 1519, work on the residence was hardly finished.

Tristan's immediate successors did not live in the hôtel on the rue du Figuier either. Chancellor Du Prat (died 1535) had the Hôtel d'Hercule and numerous secondary residences, such as the Château de Nantouillet (near Lagny) for his use. Moreover, he was not much liked by his clergy at Sens and never dared make his "entry" there. Nor did his successors, Louis de Bourbon (died 1557) and Jean Bertrand (died 1560) reside in the Hôtel de Sens. The Civil Wars of Religion impeded Louis de Lorraine, known as the "Cardinal de Guise" from taking possession of his bishopric, which he ceded in 1563 to Charles-Nicolas Pellevé (died 1594). This last, a fanatical partisan of The League, though he spent more time in Rome than in Paris, did die in the Hôtel de Sens, several days after Henri IV's entry into Paris.

Henri IV rewarded Renaud de Beaune for his wise counsel - he had received the King's abjuration at Saint-Denis - with the archbishopric of Sens. It was he whom Henri asked to lend his splendid parisian residence to Henri's former wife, Marguerite de Valois, the legendary Queen Margot.

She stayed less than a year in the Hôtel de Sens, because one of her "mignons", Julien Date, was murdered there by a jealous rival, Vermont, at the building's very gate ; the culprit was beheaded before the Queen's view. As for the line of Cardinal-archbishops, it ended with Jacques Davy-Duperron (1606-1618) and his brother, Jean Davy-Duperron (1618-1621). On October 20<sup>th</sup> 1622, Louis XIII obtained a bull from Pope Gregory XV naming Paris as an archbishopric in its own right, thus removing it from the see of Sens.

This may well have been a disguised blessing for the Hôtel de Sens : had its archbishops continued to inhabit the hôtel, they would have been tempted to follow the fashions of the day and, little by little, the old medieval building would have been transformed.

Between 1622 and the Revolution, the Hôtel was let to private individuals by the archbishop. The seventeenth-century tenants were noblemen until 1689 when a commercial business, the Mail-Coach and Carriage Service of Lyon, Burgundy and Franche-Comté, installed itself within the building's walls.

Sold during the Revolution as a national property, it was mutilated and repeatedly damaged by successive owners - a haulage firm, a laundry, a manufacturer of tinned foods, a cutter of hare's fur, an optician, the St-James jam factory (1864-1886) and a glassworks.

It was only in 1911, after much negotiation, that the City of Paris bought the building by then in an extreme state of decay. It is easy to understand why its restoration begun in 1929, was long and difficult. Finally the Forney library moved into a renovated building in 1961.