

TERRA MOSANA

We draw the past

Craftsmanship

The Euregio Meuse Rhine is known for its craftsmanship and the many products that were produced. Ceramic, furniture and linnen. But the wider range of craftsmanship and products is not known to everybody: clocks, silverware, books, works of glass, stucco on walls and ceilings. Many of these products and the knowledge to make them were imported through migration. The Euregio has been a meltingpot of new techniques, innovative products, craftsmanship and blooming merchandry for many centuries.



An Example: d'Artagnan

Gunsmithing is one of the examples in which the Euregio stands out. In Liège, Maastricht and Aachen many pistols were made, especially in the 17th century, with elaborate grips and pommels. Also canon balls en led bullets are regular finds in Euregional excavations. With one of these arms the famous mousquetaire d'Artagnan was killed, just outside the gates of Maastricht. This drama took place in the context of the French Dutch War, that took place between 1672 and 1678. D'Artagnan was shot in 1673.



Wider Perspective

What were the consequences of this siege for the Euregio as a whole and for the civilians? The whole of the Euregio felt the consequences of the siege of Maastricht by way of confiscating food, livestock and materials for the French garrison, by way of burning down Tongeren, looting the 'Land van Loon' and by the destruction of several villages around Maastricht. Some 30.000 French soldiers surrounded Maastricht and finally took the city. The costs were huge for the whole of the Euregio. In 1678 Maastricht was turned over to the Dutch government (Treaty of Nijmegen). Jülich was able to keep a neutral position during this war, but will have heard the shooting and the looting in the adjacent area. As always, some profited from this war as well.

