

## Urbanism: A City Between Wood and Stone

The Euregional towns as we know them today have a similar development: towns with originally wooden houses and earthen ramps, transformed into towns with stone buildings and massive walls. In its two thousand years of existence the vernacular architecture in Tongeren is characterized by successive cycles of wood- and stonebuilding. Those cycles can be related to several large scale city fires or destructions (military related) that had a major impact on the architecture and on the urban defense systems.



### City Fires and Destructions

Tongeren and its 2000 years of development:

69-70 AD: the Batavian revolt: from wood to stone

275-276 AD: raids by the Chauci-tribe? New urban fortifications

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century: from stone to wood. The end of the Roman town

881 AD: Viking raids with impact? Developing the medieval town

1179 AD: the count of Loon looting: rebuilding the monastery walls

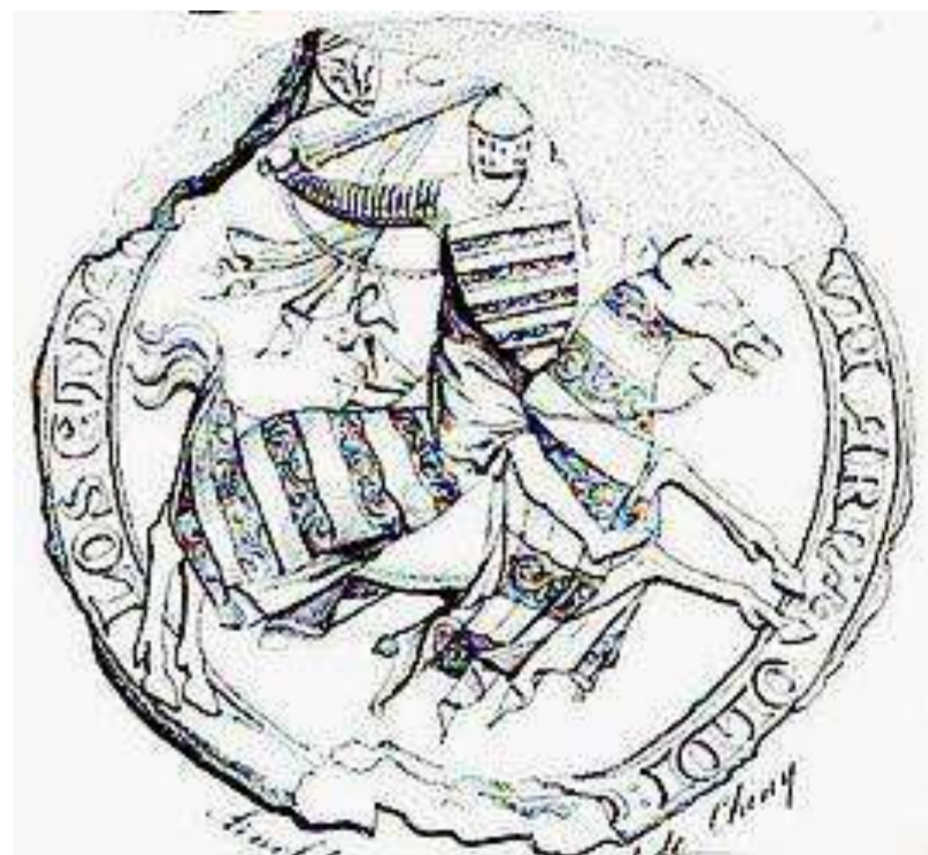
1213 AD: siege by the duke of Brabant: new urban fortifications

1468 AD: the duke of Burgundy looting: stonification of the town

1672-1677 AD: French sieges and destructions: back to wood

1789 -1796 / 1914 AD: war damages – period of stonification

1940-1944: war damages – the modern city



### Relic of the Holy Cross – 1179 AD

A relic of the Holy Cross, a silver triptych, was donated by the prince-bishop of Liège to the church of Our Lady as a token of gratitude for the support by the militia of Tongeren. An additional purpose was to attract pilgrims to visit Tongeren and probably to generate money for the rebuilding of the monastery walls.

The relic, an outstanding piece of Mosan Art craftsmanship, can be fitted into the tendency of the worshipping of relics.

Furthermore, the relic symbolizes the relation between a city and its feudal lord. The donation also fits into the story of city militias, building of medieval city walls and the use of Tongeren as the most northern stronghold of the diocese of Liège.

