



**Museum
Leuven**



**BRING AN
ARTWORK
INTO YOUR
HOME!**





Welcome to the oldest rooms
at M. This is where the mayor of
Leuven, Leopold Vanderkelen,
lived with his wife Maria.



It was here in these impressive rooms that the mayor would receive his most distinguished guests, host feasts and show off his finest objects.

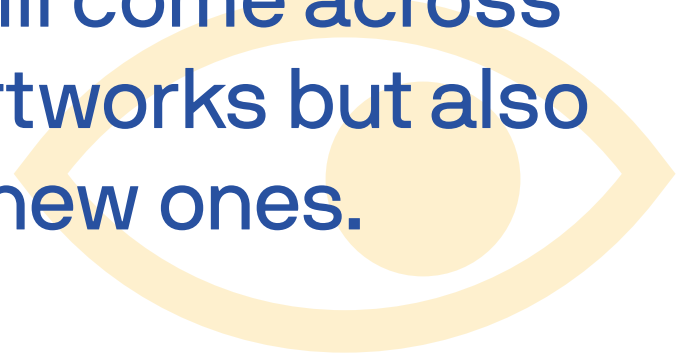


The house is now a museum packed with magnificent works of art. We are going to look at some of them today.



We have been catapulted back to
the nineteenth century!

Let's find out how people lived
in those days and what was
customary. We will come across
old objects and artworks but also
a couple of new ones.



And maybe we will find answers
to these questions. Do you only
use a fan when you are hot? Did
people play drinking games in
the old days? What's the use of a
velvet umbrella?



1. Festive fountain

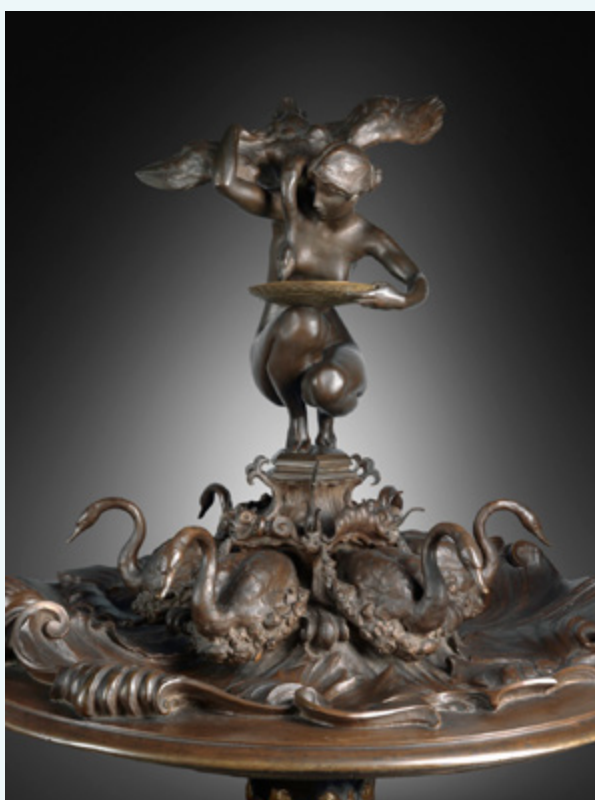
Leopold and Maria Vanderkelen were real party animals! They received their guests in the most extraordinary room in the house. It's where the mayor showed off his splendid fountain.





1.

Can you guess why this fountain was so special? Take a good look at the details and write down below what you think the fountain was used for.



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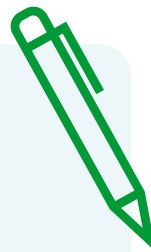


1.

Shall I tell you what the fountain was used for?

Well! The story goes that white wine flowed from the fountain at dinner parties and other festivities. But did the fountain really work, or is it a fable? For a long time we were not sure. When restoring the fountain a few years ago, we discovered that it really does work. Take a look!





1.

The fountain is dry now and no longer used. Can you get it working again? Invent a crazy but tasty drink!

Make a note of the ingredients below.

Shopping list!

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2. What's that?

Have you ever heard of a lacquered document case or a patch box? Probably not, because those objects were used long ago. So it's time to rediscover them.

Can you guess what these crazy objects were used for? Click on the relevant button.



2.

In the old days there was no electricity, so lots of candles were needed to light a house. They used this dish to extinguish the candles.



This bell was used by the maids to summon everyone to the evening meal. The bell rang when you turned the sails.

This is a windmill cup and it was brought out at parties thrown by a wealthy family. The cup was used for a drinking game. You had to blow into the pipe to set the sails in motion. The challenge was to drink the contents of the cup before the sails stopped turning.



2.

These tongs were used for serving asparagus.

Kings and queens had their own hairdresser, who worked only with the very best equipment. These tongs were used to hold the hair in place while styling it.

In the old days doctors always used silver instruments because they could be cleaned thoroughly. These tongs were used during an operation to remove the intestines.



2.

This little stand contained rose petals in oil, which gave off a sweet-smelling fragrance. The stand was placed in a toilet to mask the bad odour.



People used to write a lot of letters using a quill pen dipped in ink. This inkstand holds ink on one side and sand on the other. The sand was sprinkled over the ink to dry it.

In royal families jewellery was passed down from mother to daughter. A wedding ring would have been kept in this jewellery box after its wearer's death.



2.

Salt was very expensive in the nineteenth century. When guests were coming to dinner, these little containers were filled with salt. It was a way of showing how rich you were.



People often ate with their hands. Little bowls of lemon water were placed on the table so that guests could wash their hands.

Sauce never used to be served on a plate but always separately in a little bowl. So these are what we call 'sauce boats'.



2.

There were no deepfreezes or refrigerators in the nineteenth century so food was preserved in vinegar. These spoons were used to scoop the food out of the vinegar and to serve it.



Sugar was very expensive in the nineteenth century. This spoon was used to sprinkle powdered sugar over fruit.

This is a serving spoon for meat dishes. The meat juices would drain off through the little holes so that you didn't end up with a plateful of meat swimming in liquid.



2.

Here are the right answers to the quiz.

1. It's a windmill cup
2. They are asparagus tongs
3. It's an inkstand
4. They are salt-cellars
5. It's a sugar spoon used for sprinkling sugar over fruit

EXTRA

Ask your mum or dad what objects they used to use that are no longer in use today.

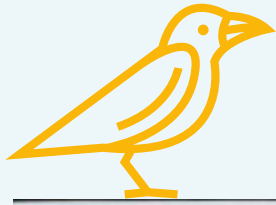
Perhaps they have a few old items lying around that you can examine.

Take a photograph of them and post it on **#getMathome**.



3. Ventriloquist Bird

If you can't get enough of these crazy objects, don't worry, because there's plenty more madness to come! Here you can meet the wackiest artist ever: Messieurs Delmotte!





3.

This artist uses a fake name. Nobody knows his real name.

Think up a fake name for yourself. Write it down here but don't let anyone else read it, will you?

.....

Messieurs Delmotte loves humour and likes making videos.

Click here to watch one of his performances. Delmotte is standing in a park and you can hear the birds whistling around him. The artist pretends he is making the sounds himself.



3.

See if you can do that too. Let's pretend to be Messieurs Delmotte for a moment!

- Take a mobile phone or camera and ask a member of your household to film you.
- Look for a place outside, in the garden, the park or on your terrace.
- Listen carefully to all the sounds around you. Can you hear the wind, the birds, rain perhaps?
- Pretend you are making those sounds yourself.

Post your film on **#getMathome!**



4. Mysterious messages

From mysterious artists to coded messages!

Fans like this one were usually used to create a current of air to cool you down in hot weather. But that was not their only purpose.



4.

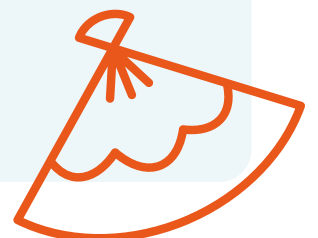
At balls or at the theatre, ladies also used a fan to communicate through coded messages. They could let an admirer know if they were interested simply by the way they held the fan.

We're going to practise that!

Have you got a fan lying around at home. Great!

If you haven't, then take a sheet of paper and make vertical folds all the way across it. Now pinch the folds together at the bottom and wrap adhesive tape round it. **[Find out how to do that here.](#)**

And there you have it, your very own fan is ready for use!





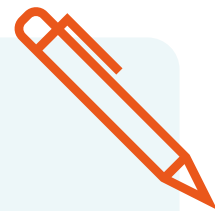
4.

Time now to learn a few coded messages!

You will find the various gestures below. Take your fan and try out the techniques.



© Leriette Desir van Bergen



4.

TIP

When you've practised enough, ask a member of your household to guess the message you are trying to communicate.

EXTRA

Think up a few coded messages of your own too. Make a note of them below.

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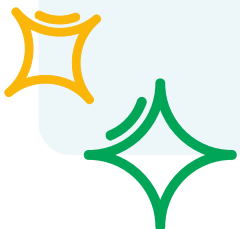
Can your mum or dad guess what they mean?

5. Cabinet with a wow factor

Imagine, you are living in the seventeenth century and you are invited to the house of a rich family. You go in and this beautiful cabinet immediately catches your eye, which is hardly surprising because the cabinet was designed to stop guests in their tracks.

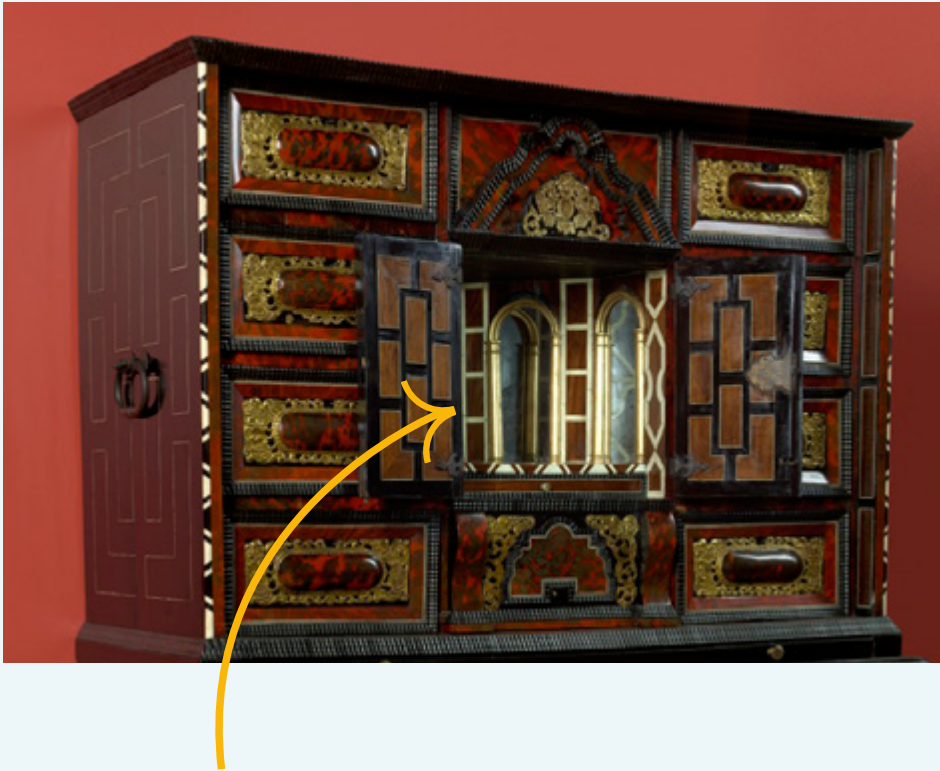
The cabinet was decorated with ivory, tortoiseshell and gilded copper. No material was considered too expensive!

You're dying to take a peek inside.



5.

Unusual objects like precious stones, coins and jewellery were kept in the drawers.



Can you see the two little doors in the middle? Behind them is a small, mirror-lined room where the most valuable object was displayed.



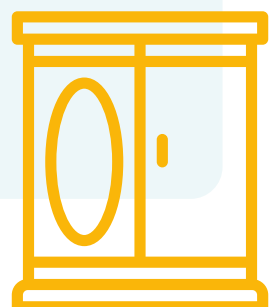
5.



Fancy making your own display cabinet?

Before you start, consider these questions and go round your own house looking for suitable objects.

- Which object brings back the fondest memory?
- Which object were you given by your best friend?
- Which object cheers you up when you are feeling down?
- Which object would you give to someone you really like?
- Which object would you save from a fire?



5.



Found everything?

So now go and look for a cupboard and ask permission to empty a drawer or a shelf. Put all your objects on display and leave the cupboard open.

Now give the members of your household a shout and show them your treasures.





Colophon

Text and concept: M Leuven

Design: Helena Vereycken

Visuals:

Messieurs Delmotte, Les Points d'Eau, 1993, Cera collection | M Leuven

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Leuven, photograph Dirk Pauwels

Cabinet M51_pl.jpg: M Leuven, photograph Paul Laes

M Leuven, www.artinflanders.be, photograph Dominique Provost

Windmill cup: © Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

Asparagus tongs: © Private collection, photograph Dominique Provost

Icons: *Eye Icons* by Vicons Design, *Closed eyes* by Alina Oleynik, *Paperclip* by Bruno Bosse, *Pen* by designer expert, *Pencil* by Vectors Point, *Search* by Richard Schumann, *Fan* by Dron Desain, *stars* by Rahmat Taufiqurrahman, *wardrobe* by Firza Alamsyah, *shelf* by lastspark, *Movie Srinivas Agra*, *Search* by Richard Schumann, *Bird* by Iconic, *silence* by icon 54 from The Noun Project