

**THE INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR FUND SUPPORTS THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION
OF THE ANJOU BIBLE
A 14TH CENTURY TOP EXHIBIT OF EXCEPTIONAL HISTORICAL AND ART
HISTORICAL VALUE**

After the successful Rogier van de Weyden 1400|1464 exhibition - The passion of the Master (2009), the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund, the Illuminare – Study centre for medieval art (K.U.Leuven) and M-Leuven are working together once again. For the last two years, partly thanks to the financial support of The InBev-Baillet Latour Fund, the Anjou Bible, a manuscript that was created in the 14th century at the tumultuous court of Naples, was studied in detail for the first time. This rare jewel is a top exhibit of exceptional historical and art historical value. Now that the conservation is complete, the Belgian public can admire the temporary Bible of Anjou exhibition – Naples 1340 – a royal manuscript unveiled, at the Museum M in Leuven. After two months the Anjou Bible will be permanently stored away in the vaults of the Maurits Sabbe library of the Theological faculty of the K.U.Leuven.

Conservation of the Belgian personal heritage

The InBev-Baillet Latour fund, which encourages human achievements in scientific, academic or artistic areas, launched **the InBev-Baillet Latour Programme for the Restoration of the Belgian Cultural Heritage** in 2002. While most cultural projects in Belgium are mainly dedicated to the immovable patrimony, the Fund is **the first private Maecenas that supports the restoration of important cultural objects**. This includes amongst other the financing, with an amount of almost 82.100.00 euro, of the **study and conservation of the Anjou Bible**. After the Rogier van der Weyden 1400|1464 exhibition - The passion of the Master (2009), the project forms a new cooperation between the InBev-Baillet Latour fund, the Illuminare – Study centre for Medieval Art (K.U.Leuven) and M-Leuven.

The Anjou Bible, 14th century historical and art historical royal masterpiece



During the first half of the fourteenth century Central and Southern Europe were governed by the successful **dynasty of Anjou**, which continued to expand its territories and boasted artists like Giotto, Boccaccio and Petrarch. In 1328, after the death of her father, Joanna of Anjou became the official heir to the prosperous house of the kings of Naples and Sicily.

Several years later her grandfather, Robert I, gave Joanna and her young Hungarian fiancé Andrew a precious gift. That gift was a book which became known as the **Anjou Bible**, a **manuscript that is priceless from a historical and art-historical point of view**.

Apart from bible texts and amazing miniatures, this book also contains historical information about the Kingdom of Anjou and the origin of this book.

The Anjou Bible and the context in which it was created are particularly important for the study of socio-cultural life in medieval Southern Italy. However, the manuscript soon found its way to Northern Europe. After peregrinations in royal circles, in 1509 the codex ended up on Brabantine soil. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the manuscript came into the possession of the Episcopal Seminary in Mechelen. Since 1970 it has been preserved in the Theology Faculty's Maurits Sabbe Library at the K.U.Leuven, which comprises of an impressive collection of manuscripts from the Episcopal Seminar in Mechelen. The Anjou Bible is the pride of this collection.

Research, conservation and disclosure



The circumstances under which the Bible of Anjou was kept simply does not allow detailed research. The twentieth-century binding was much too tight and had made damaging creases in the parchment. **Partly thanks to the financial support of the InBev Baillet Latour Fund** the Bible of Anjou has been subject to detailed stylistic, iconographic, codicologic and historic research for the past two years. The latest innovative research techniques are being applied with the laboratory tests, the conservation and the digital release of the 338 folios. The international research and conservation team of scientists from Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Great Britain and the United States was successful in carefully separating the valuable parchment folios from the Bible. There were also difficulties with the pigments and the abundant use of gold leaf in the illuminations.

From 17 September to 5 December 2010 the public will have the unique opportunity to admire the Bible of Anjou for the first time. After the exhibition this historical and art historical masterpiece will forever be stored away and disappear again into the vaults of the Maurits Sabbe library of the Theological Faculty of the K.U.Leuven.

The Bible will then only be available in its digital version in the Museum M itself or on the Anjou website: www.bijbelvananjou.be

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The **INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR FUND** was founded in 1974 by Count Alfred de Baillet Latour, Member of the Board of Directors of Brasseries Artois from 1947 to 1980. Its objective is to encourage work of great value to humanity, of a mainly scientific, educational or artistic nature, and to reward such work by means of prizes or study grants, excluding any profit motive and regardless of political, trade union, philosophical or religious convictions. The InBev-Baillet Latour Fund is active in following main areas: medical research, Belgian heritage, university education and the Olympic movement.

In the area of medical research, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund has been awarding the **InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize** since 1979. This prize, currently worth 200,000 euros is one of the most important science prizes awarded in Belgium. Since 2007, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund awards the **Clinical Research Prize**, which each year supports two young Belgian research scientists one from each community in the country. In addition, since 2008, the Fund is financing research into rare tropical diseases at the **Antwerp Institute for Tropical Medicine**.

In the field of education, the Fund finances the **University Chair at UCL/KUL (Catholic University of Louvain)**, established in June 2000 to promote research into relations between the European Union and Russia. The fund also finances a **Euromarketing Chair at the Solvay Business School**.

As from 2008/2009 the Fund will also finance a new **Chair with KUL/UCL on the relationship Europe-China**, as well as a **Chair** on the same subject at the **College of Europe**.

In addition, the Fund awards **study grants** to doctoral students conducting scientific research in the field of brewing, to students conducting research into relations between Russia and the European Union, to Belgian students attending the **College of Europe** and the **Royal Institute for cultural Heritage**. Since 2008 the Fund yearly contribute towards 5 young musicians at the **Queen Elisabeth College of Music**.

In 2002, the Fund launched a new initiative, the **InBev-Baillet Latour Programme for the Restoration of Belgian Cultural Heritage**, who yearly ensure for the restoration of important cultural objects. The Fund also finance the realisation of 6 rooms Art Deco/Art Nouveau at the KMG (Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis).

The Fund further intends to provide financial support to the Olympic movement and to Belgian athletes both through the **COIB-BOIC (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee)** and with respect to the **Special Olympics** (mentally handicapped) and **Paralympics** (physically handicapped).

The Fund also finances an **Olympic Chair Henri de Baillet Latour - Jacques Rogge at the universities UGent and UCL**.

The Fund also demonstrates its concern for the environment and for sustainable development through the support of various initiatives in this field. It awards an **Environment Prize** to a private company manager for an ecological land management project in Belgium. It has also teamed up with the International Polar Foundation through the award of scientific research grants for the study of climate change, partly at the Princess Elisabeth Station, the **Antarctica InBev-Baillet Latour Fellowship Award**, as well as the funding of the scientific equipment for the station.

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