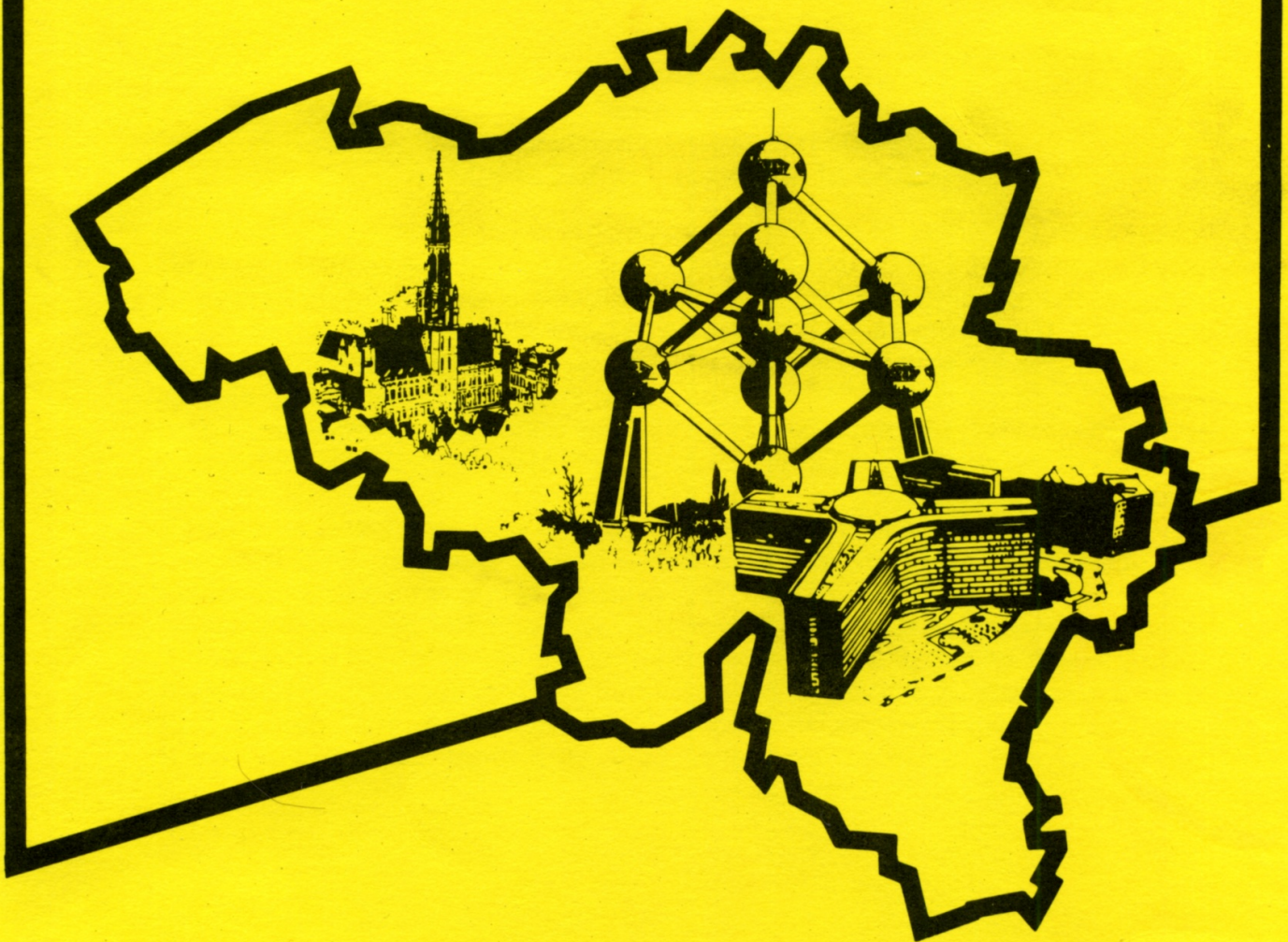


FRENCH

HEADSTART FOR BELGIUM



CULTURAL NOTES

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

FRENCH

HEADSTART FOR BELGIUM

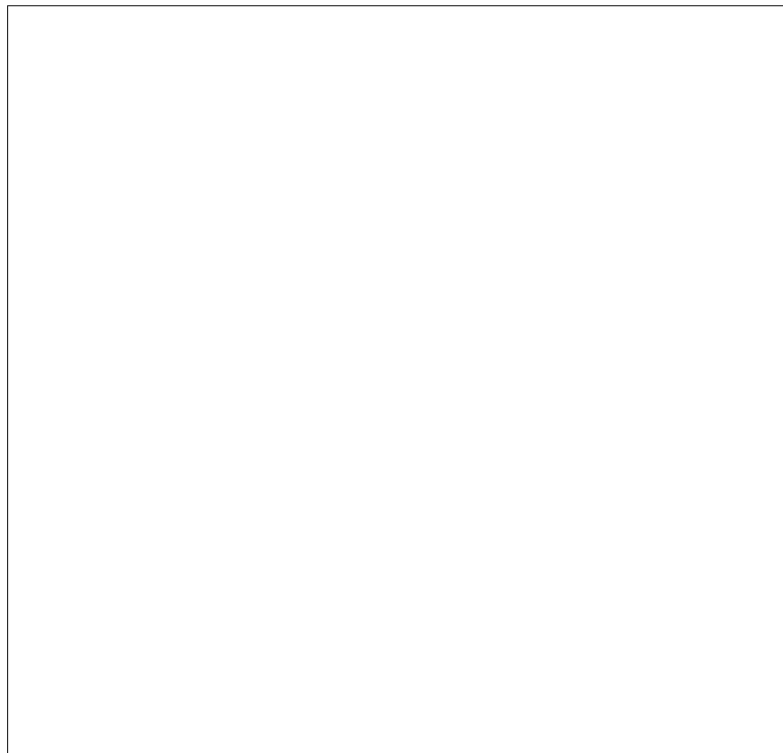
Cultural Notes

August 1983

Defense Language Institute

Note: Original pictures have been replaced with equivalent Creative Commons ones. October 2009.

enchanted
de faire
votre connaissance



prettig
met u
kennis te maken

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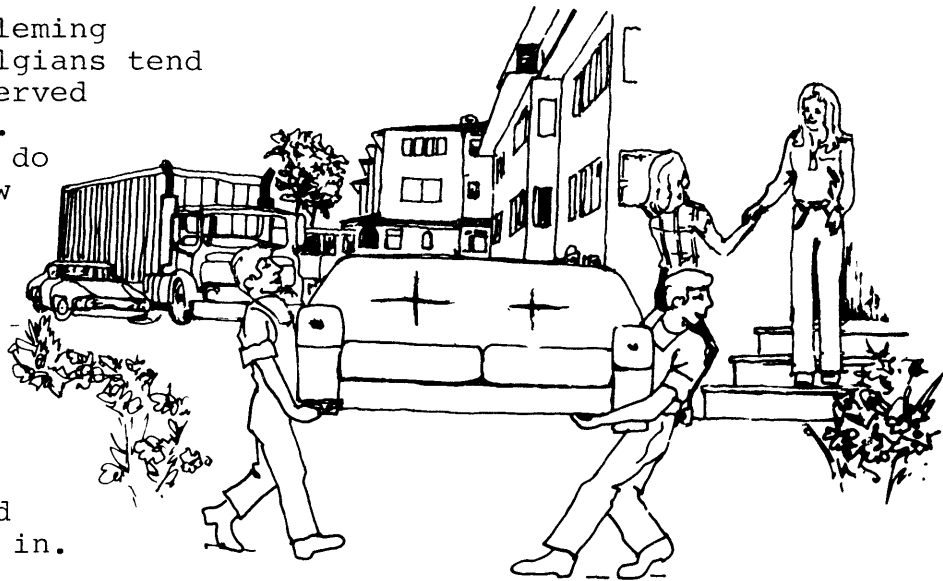
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Introduction

Undoubtedly, you'll find Belgium a pleasant place to stay. Enjoy the international ambiance of Brussels, the tranquillity of the Ardennes woods, the abundance and variety of food and fine restaurants, the superb musical events, and more.

As you investigate your surroundings, you'll discover remarkable variety resulting from the small kingdom's many divisions. Topographically, the Sambre-Meuse river valley separates the northern lowlands from the southern highlands. Linguistically, nearly 60 percent of the population are Dutch-speaking Flemings and 40 percent are French-speaking Walloons. Culturally, the Flemings and Walloons differ not only in language but also in political, educational and ecclesiastical viewpoints.

Whether Fleming or Walloon, Belgians tend to be more reserved than Americans. Generally they do not welcome new neighbors in a formal manner. It is good policy to apologize to your new neighbors in advance for any trouble or noise caused by your moving in.



You'll find that Belgians are more formal than Americans. They use last names and titles of respect with most people and expect the same formality from them. If a woman has no wedding ring, call her Mademoiselle if she is young and Madame if she is of indeterminate age.

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The formality extends to the dual use of "you" in the French language. Tu, the familiar form, is used to address close friends, colleagues, relatives and children. French Headstart for Belgium introduces only the formal vous because it is the most appropriate to the situations presented.

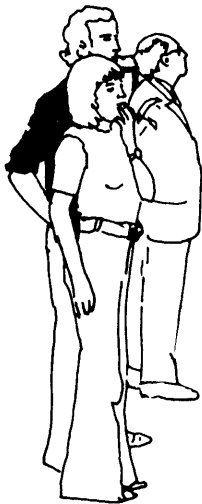
It's a good idea to observe the ways in which Belgians interact and apply what you learn to your interactions with Belgians.

The purpose of these cultural notes is to give you relevant information to help you orient yourself in Belgium. Since only a few essentials can be covered in these Cultural Notes, learn more about the country and its people by reading as much on the subjects as you can find, by asking questions and by observing those around you.

People

The hard-working, hard-playing Belgian maintains strong, interdependent family ties while asserting an independent attitude in society.

The Belgian is strongly family-oriented, usually associating with relatives and a small group of friends known since childhood.



The nuclear family--father, mother and unmarried children--live together, and unmarried offspring often share the household but live in different apartments. Extended family members share these close ties, even when separated by great distances. Proximity to family is often the first consideration of a person choosing a job or a home.

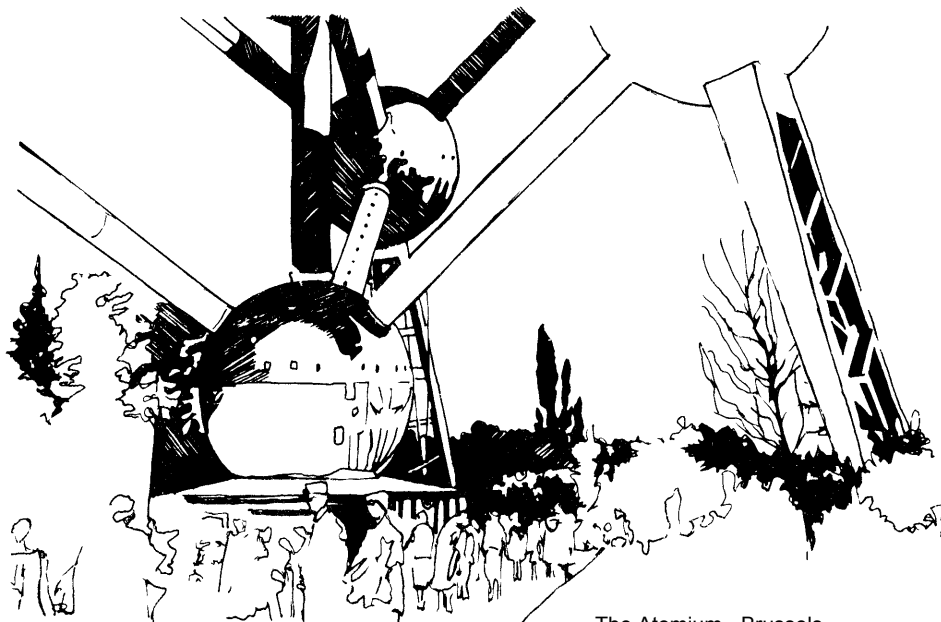
Although friendly to others they must deal with, Belgians, like many Europeans, tend to be formal, shaking hands even with those whom they see daily, and using last names with all but family and close friends. Families rarely entertain in their homes. However, younger people tend toward less formality than their parents.

The family faces society with a united front. Each member confronts it as a self-determined being, concerned with individual rights first and social considerations second. As a result, the typical Belgian, if there is one, questions authority and shows little willingness to concede any individuality for the good of the majority.

Paradoxically, although the Belgian insists on maintaining personal freedom, institutions structure much of Belgian life. Religious commitment, ethnic group, profession and class help determine an individual's place in the social system and influence political views, social activities, education, and general outlook. For example, a family's religious convictions can involve an individual in a particular system for life, determining hospital born in, school attended, labor union and political party affiliated with, and social activities participated in.

These criteria compartmentalize both Flemings and Walloons as does language. Moreover, both groups use these to describe their own temperaments and each others'.

Thus, the Flemings see themselves--and are seen as--strong, quiet, calm, self-contained, profound, tenacious, pragmatic, and industrious. In contrast, the Walloons appear spontaneous, imaginative, quick-thinking, noisy, pliant, and indolent. Each considers the other stubborn and headstrong. Both love the good life: fine food and family outings in particular.



The Atomium - Brussels

Language

A trilingual nation, Belgium has French and Dutch-speaking citizens and a small, contained community of German-speaking inhabitants.

During the 16th century, French became the language of diplomacy and commerce. The aristocracy and the upper-class Flemings spoke French; only the peasants and the urban poor spoke Flemish. Most Flemings placed little value on their Dutch-oriented language or Flemish culture until the 19th century when Belgium was united briefly with the Netherlands.

By 1830, when the Belgians gained independence, the majority were Flemings and spoke a number of Flemish dialects. Despite the Flemish majority, however, the kingdom chose French as the official language for three main reasons: First, most Belgians resented Dutch rule and were in favor of breaking away from anything Dutch and this included the Dutch-related language; second, the middle and upper classes, both Walloon and Fleming, had led the independence movement and considered French to be the language of culture; and third, Flemish was a collection of dialects which had defied standardization and was, consequently, not a language as such.

Subsequent attempts to standardize Flemish failed and in the mid 1800s Dutch was proposed as the standard Flemish language. Relations with the Dutch had improved making the suggestion politically acceptable and, indeed, Dutch was made the standard Flemish language by royal decree in 1864; in 1898 it was accorded equal status with French as an official language.



In 1970 the national census revealed that nearly three-fifths of the population spoke Dutch, two-fifths spoke French and a tiny fraction spoke German. The government partitioned the country into linguistic regions--French, Dutch, German and bilingual--in an effort to bring harmony to the various factions.

Top Left:
 Guten Tag. How are you?
 très bien, merci.
 Danke, soweit ganz gut.
 Je suis de Marseille.
 En U? Where are you from?

Top Right:
 Woont U in Bergen?
 Are you married?
 Tot ziens.
 Auf Wiedersehen.
 Nein, wir wohnen in München.
 Non, je suis célibataire.

Right Side (Vertical Column):
 Good afternoon.
 Comment allez-vous?
 Und Ihnen?
 Goed, dank U wel.
 going well, thank you.
 Ça va bien?
 Ik kom Van Antwerpen.

Left Side (Vertical Column):
 Wohnen sie in Stuttgart?
 Est-ce que vous êtes marié?
 Auf Wiedersehen.
 Sand-bye.
 Nee, ik ben ongetrouwd.
 No, we live in Omaha.

Bottom Left:
 Goed, dank U.
 Wie geht es Ihnen?
 Et vous?
 Woher sind Sie?
 I'm from Cleveland.

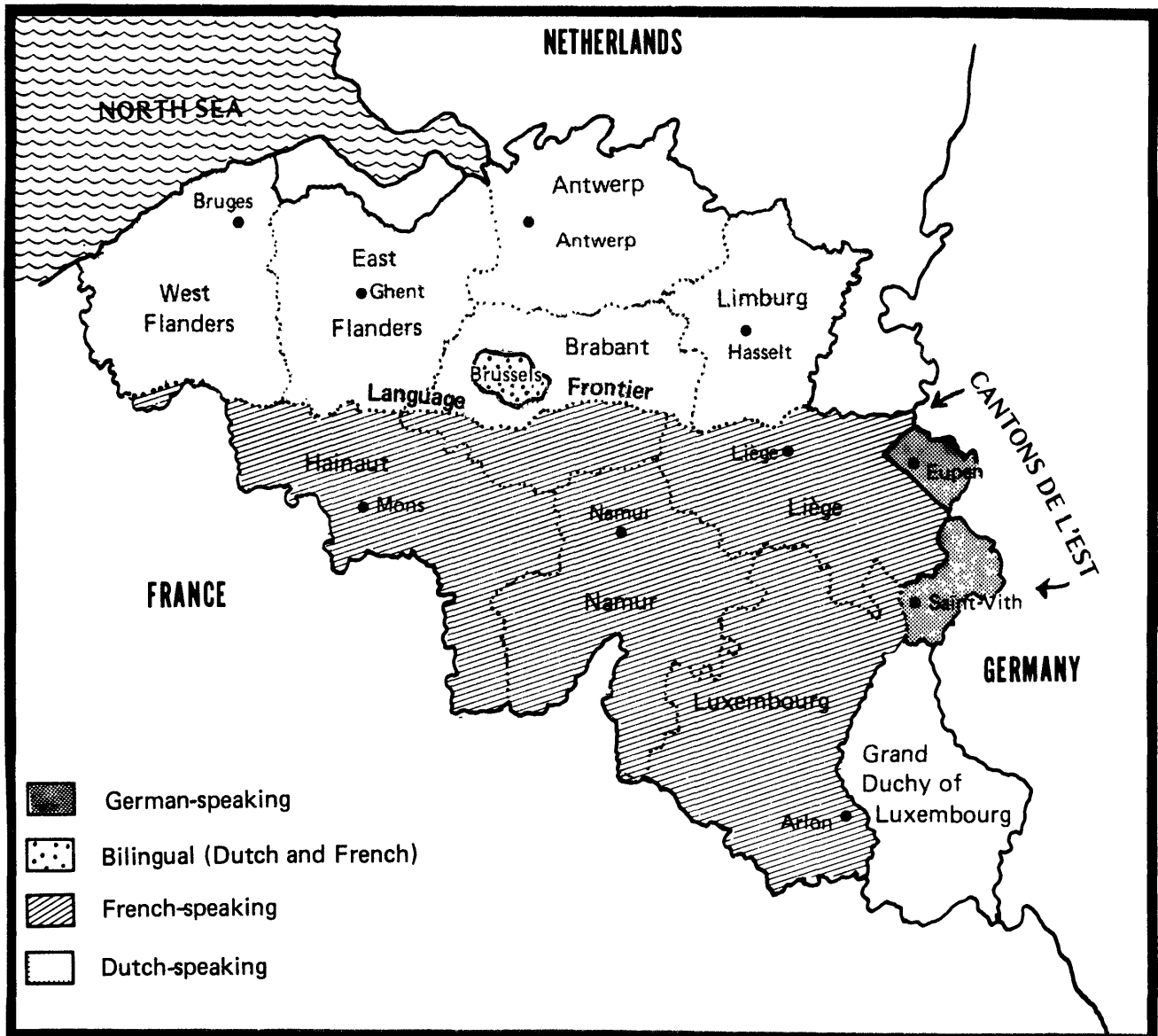
Bottom Center:
 Dagt, goeden dag.
 A bientôt.
 Nij, my wonen in Leuven.
 No, I'm single.
 Sinds Sie verheirater?
 Vous habitez à Paris?

Bottom Right:
 Bonjour.
 Dankte, gut.
 Het maakt U het?
 And you?
 Waar vanden?
 Aus Hamburg.
 Au revoir.
 See you soon.
 Bent U getrouwd?
 You live in Brooklyn?
 Well, nous habitons à Nice.
 Aling ich bin ludig.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

Brabant, the central province, has been designated bilingual; in actuality, most of Brabant is Dutch-speaking except Brussels, its bilingual capital. Brussels is a cosmopolitan city with many international concerns, foreign workers and tourists that make it multilingual. Because it is two-thirds French-speaking and one-third Dutch-speaking, even the street signs reflect linguistic divisiveness: sometimes French, sometimes Dutch, and once in a while both. The cultural-linguistic conflict reinforced by class, economic, religious and political distinctions remains unresolved.

The Belgian language frontier



Land

Belgium is located between the Netherlands to the north, Germany to the east, France to the southwest, Luxembourg to the south, and the North Sea to the northwest. It is small country of about 11,800 square miles, not much bigger than Maryland.

Its 9.7 million people, about 830 per square mile, make Belgium one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

It is divided into nine provinces: four Flemish-speaking to the north, four French-speaking to the south, and a central, bilingual province.

A highly industrialized nation, Belgium has a number of busy manufacturing centers around Mons and Charleroi near the French border. In addition, the country is intensively farmed and produces 80 percent of its own food supply. The soil of the midland plateau is excellent, and toward the north, arable land has been reclaimed from the sea. Good pastureland lies southward.

The climate varies considerably: on the coast, the temperature drops to the high 30's in winter and rises to the low 60's in summer. The Ardennes can expect 120 days of below-freezing temperatures annually. It rains approximately 200 days a year, varying from about 28 inches in the north to more than 40 inches in the south.

The Sambre and Meuse rivers cut through Belgium from east to west, dividing the country topographically into northern plains with dikes and canals and southern plateaus which become increasingly hilly and more densely forested to the southern extremes.

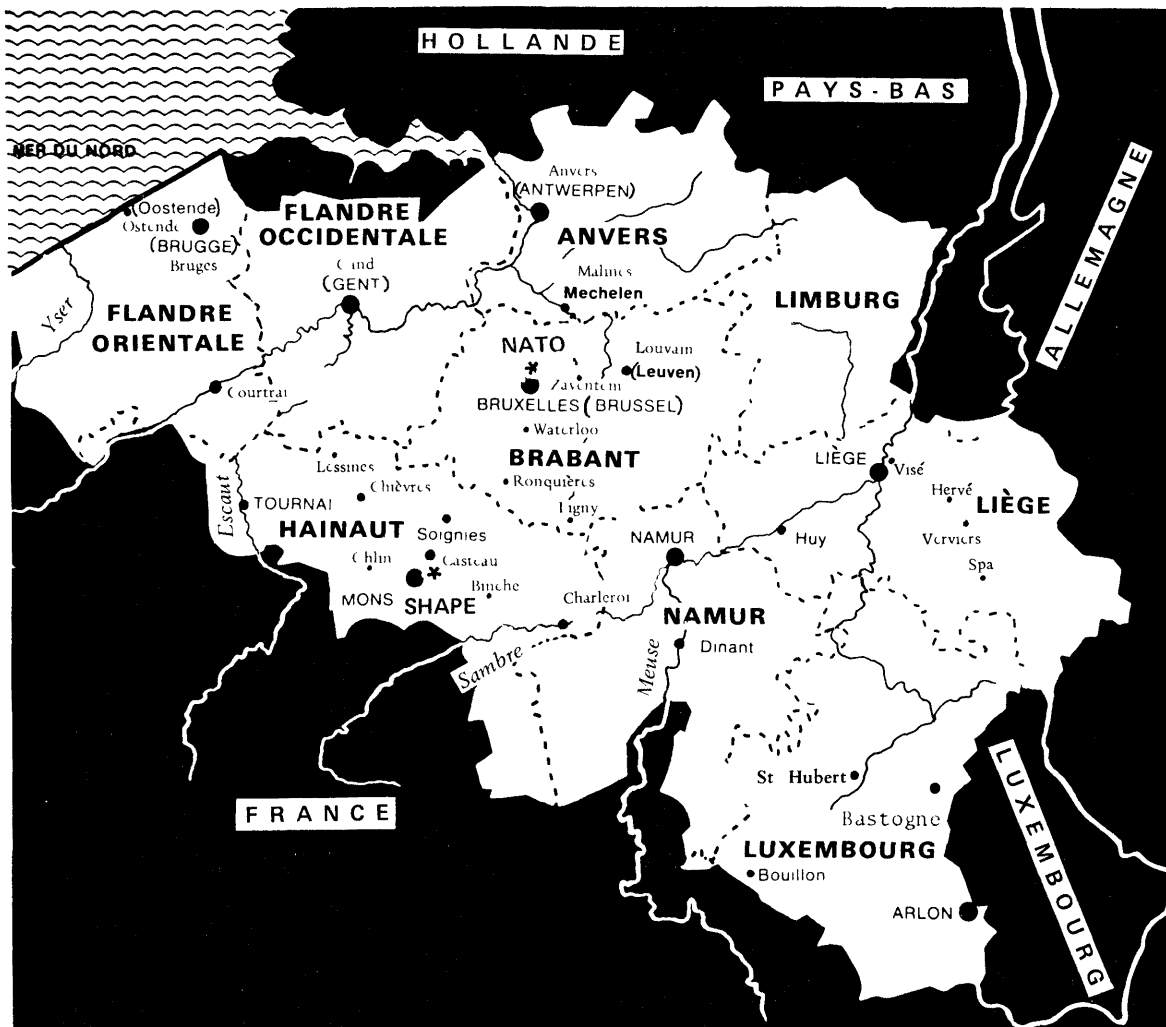
In Maritime Flanders, forty miles of sandy beaches not only provide popular recreation areas but also support commercial and sport fishing. A visitor might even see some of the few remaining shrimp fishermen who ride into the sea on horseback for their catch.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

Kempenland, east of the Schelde River, contains pine forests, sandy hillocks and picturesque lakes. Interior Flanders, west of Kempenland, has undulating plains and low hills, few rising above 500 feet. The central plateau areas, cut by the Sambre and Meuse river valley, have good soil, and to the south, forests and pastureland.

Farther south, higher in elevation and covering a large area, is the heavily wooded Ardennes Plateau. Throughout the Ardennes are many monuments and reminders of major battles fought there in World Wars I and II. Southernmost Belgian Lorraine, a small area of steep cliffs and heavy forests, borders on Luxembourg.

BELGIQUE (BELGIUM)



History

Belgian Independence

For almost 2,000 years, foreign powers occupied Belgium and used it as a battleground. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815, the major powers combined the low countries into the United Kingdom of Netherlands.

Prince William of Holland ruled. However, the Belgians felt exploited politically and economically, and revolted in 1830. Supported by Britain, they declared independence, and, in 1831, Leopold of Saxe-Coburg became the first king.

The new country faced tremendous problems. It was made up of two disparate groups, the Walloons and the Flemings, alike in religion but different in language and culture. Moreover, the new country had only one natural frontier, was not recognized by the Dutch, and Belgium's other neighbors anticipated her imminent collapse.

With Leopold's diplomatic skill and Britain's support, Belgium survived. In 1831, Leopold persuaded his people to accept a treaty which, though parts of Limbourg and Luxembourg were lost, was the best that could be achieved at the time, for it guaranteed them protection and independence. Leopold recognized the need for political stability, economic strength, and Belgian neutrality. He died in 1865, but by then the survival of Belgium was assured.

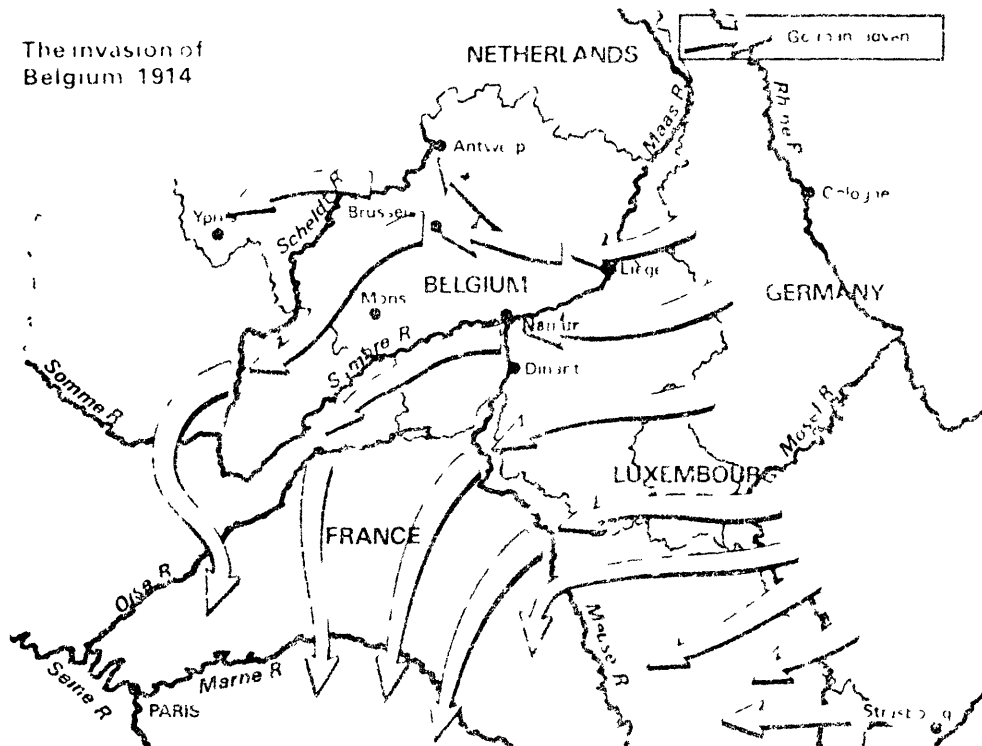
Leopold II succeeded to the throne. At the time of his coronation, Belgium, like the rest of Europe, was experiencing the agricultural and industrial revolution as well as outward expansion. Leopold II wanted Belgium to share in the development of Africa, and despite heated opposition, acquired the Congo. Its resources, along with Belgium's industry, banking, and foreign trade, made the small country a rich and important nation.

The World Wars

Belgium lay in Germany's path to France in World War I. Despite the country's neutrality, the Germans marched in, occupied, and tried to use the enmity between the Walloons and the Flemings to divide the country. However, Belgium came out of the war victorious, internally sound and with a strong sense of national identity.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

Belgium experienced an economic depression along with the rest of the world in the 1930's, and the Walloon/Fleming animosity flared again. The government tried to reconcile both groups by dividing the country into linguistic regions: Flemish-speaking provinces to the north, French-speaking provinces to the south, and a bilingual province in the center. At this time, Belgium recognized the need to protect her territory. The nation renounced neutral status and allied militarily with other European powers.



In 1940, Germany again entered and occupied Belgium, cutting off allied military aid. The country suffered bombing, material confiscation, food deprivation and citizen deportation. Though some Belgians collaborated with the Germans, a strong resistance movement developed which performed thousands of acts of sabotage and supplied the allies with important military information.

Postwar Belgium

Following the war, Belgium's economy, compared to her neighbors', was relatively stable; however, relations between the Flemings and the Walloons were not. Although some of the

problem was political and economic, the major discord was still linguistic. When the reign of Leopold III became a matter of political contention, he abdicated in favor of his son, Prince Baudouin. In an attempt to settle the language problem, the government realigned provincial boundaries, created separate Flemish and Walloon cultural councils, and established ministries of education and educational institutions for each group.

The need for this was demonstrated when the Flemings insisted that the University of Louvain (Leuven) in Flanders become purely Flemish-speaking which led to the Walloons' demand for another university in Ottignies in Wallonia to accommodate the French-speaking staff and students who left Louvain.

The New Europe

Many European countries granted their colonies independence after the war, and in 1960 Belgium followed suit and gave up the Congo.

Belgium led in recognizing the political and economic advantages of international relations and actively pursued treaties and compacts with other nations. Belgium, a founding member of the United Nations, joined other European countries in organizations such as Benelux (an economic union of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg), and the European Economic Community (EEC--the Common Market) which has its headquarters in Brussels, as does the European Atomic Energy Community (EUROTOM).

Moreover, realizing the need for joint protection, Belgium has allied herself militarily with other nations and belongs to the Western European Union in addition to being a charter member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In fact, both NATO and its Supreme Headquarters, Allied Personnel in Europe (SHAPE) are based in Belgium.

Government

National Government

Belgium is a constitutional monarchy with a system of checks to balance the powers of its three government branches.

The executive branch, the king and his cabinet, is called "the government." Although the king influences the selection of cabinet ministers, all of his governmental actions must be approved by the cabinet. Ministers, usually members of Parliament, retain their rights to full participation in the legislature. Their ministerial duties include submitting programs to Parliament and advising the king.

The legislative branch, Parliament, comprises the House of Representatives and the Senate together. The executive and legislative branches formulate and implement legislation. The bicameral legislature, each chamber holding equal power, accords or withholds confidence in the cabinet, plans the general course of foreign and domestic policy, and initiates and adopts bills. Members of Parliament represent the constituents of their respective linguistic communities and the Belgian people in aggregate.

The judicial branch settles civil and criminal questions, but special administrative courts have jurisdiction over questions of political rights. The judiciary determines the legality, but not the constitutionality, of administrative acts. Executive actions and decisions, like those of local and provincial authorities, are subject to judicial deliberation; those of Parliament are not.



Gand

Regional/Local Government

A provincial council, elected every four years by the citizens of each province, legislates local issues. A permanent council of six, elected by the provincial councilors, administers the province and takes over legislative power when the provincial council is out of session. The king and cabinet select permanent provincial governors.

Communal councils perform legislative functions according to national guidelines. Members, varying in number, are elected for six-year terms. The king and cabinet select each commune's mayor, who, with six communal council members, administrates locally.

Thus, Belgium has a national government overseeing all, provincial councils to legislate and administrate regionally, and communal councils to manage locally.

Political Parties

Political parties manifest ideological, regional, cultural, linguistic and religious distinctions. The three oldest and largest political parties are the Belgian Socialist Party (BSP-PSB) representing the left, the Christian Social Party (CVP-PSC) representing the center, and the Party of Liberty and Progress (PVV-PLP) -- sometimes called the Liberals, an historical reference-- representing the right. Both the BSP-PSB and the CVP-PSC have Flemish and French-speaking sections.

Other, smaller parties align themselves regionally and linguistically, but the three major parties have retained their power and influence for many years. Sometimes one party dominates the government; at other times, two, three or four-party coalitions hold sway.

Economy

Belgium's highly developed economy is based chiefly on turning imported raw materials into finished goods for export; consequently, much of the work force is employed in manufacturing or in the business, financial or transportation services connected with foreign trade.

Because Belgium must depend so much on the rest of the world, the country actively participates in many international economic and trade organizations and strives to minimize internal and external trade restrictions to maintain a competitive position.

Other than farm products, some wood and minerals, Belgium has few domestic resources. Coal deposits are generally poor in quality and unsafe and expensive to mine. Consequently, nearly all raw materials and fuels necessary for industry and energy production must be imported.

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On a per capita basis, Belgium is the second largest steel producer in the world and a leading processor of nonferrous and refractory metals, importing raw materials and exporting up to 70 percent of the finished products.

Metal working--mostly industrial machinery and transportation equipment--employs almost a third of the work force. More than 60 percent of the finished goods are exported.

The chemical industry also employs many people. Again, most raw materials, except some coal, metallurgical by-products and all glassmaking material, must be imported. Belgium exports more than 60 percent of the finished products, including synthetic fertilizer, chemicals, plastics and photographic materials.

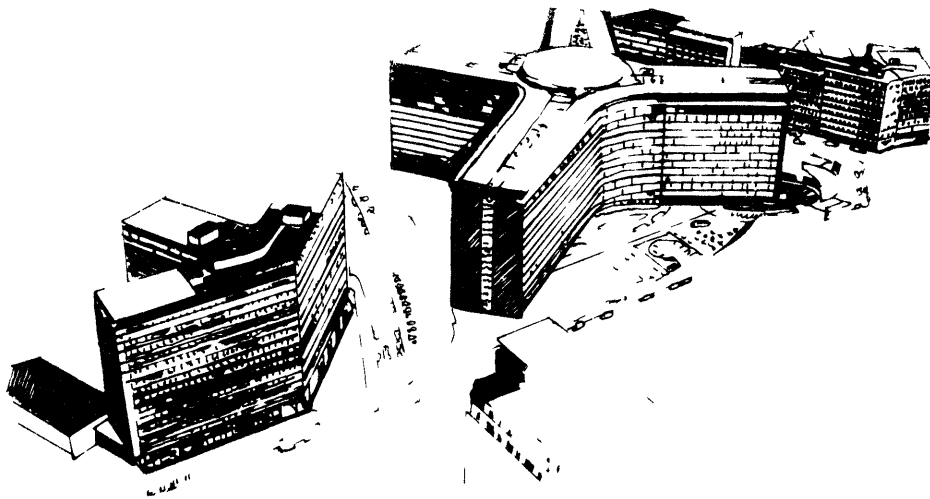
The metallurgical, metal processing and chemical industries are generally large corporations, and the food processing, textile, glass and diamond enterprises are relatively smaller, sometimes family concerns. However, to compete successfully on today's international market, many small businesses have had to combine.

The food-processing industry depends chiefly on Belgium's agricultural production but imports some vegetable oils and grain. Commodities include smoked, frozen and dehydrated foods, dairy products, sugar, beer, margarine, chocolate candy and canned goods. Around 80 percent are consumed at home, and the rest are exported.

The excellence of Belgium's glass and textile products is recognized all over the world. The glass and glassware industry is one of the few needing no imported substances, but textile manufacturers must import almost all their raw materials.

Though world famous, the Belgian diamond industry has been hurt recently by world competition and restrictive trade measures.

Farm production fulfills about 90 percent of Belgium's domestic needs, but agriculture plays a minor part in the economy. Around 40 percent of the land, cultivated or in pasture, produces grain, sugar beets, vegetables, fruit and flowers, or supports cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, hogs and horses. Belgium exports approximately eight percent of its livestock and raw and processed farm commodities.



Marché Commun à Bruxelles

Religion

Although Belgium's constitution stipulates freedom of worship, the Roman Catholic Church has been a major social, educational, and political force historically.

Compared to the Walloons, the Flemings are more zealous in their support of Roman Catholicism. They urge church and state involvement, arguing that the church is the basis of Belgian social order, forming its values and perspectives--especially through the educational system. Most Flemish children attend Catholic schools, and church-oriented organizations influence social life, the labor force, and political thinking.

The Walloons, though predominantly Roman Catholic, incline toward secularism, most insisting on separation of church and state. Many Walloons are anticlerical freethinkers and send their children to secular schools, but parents see that they get some religious instruction.

Approximately 150,000 Protestants, 40,000 Jews, and a recent influx of Moslems live in Belgium, but the majority of the 9½ million inhabitants are Roman Catholic.



Notre Dame d'Anvers

Holidays and Festivals

Legal Holidays

Since Belgium is a predominantly Catholic nation, many of the legal holidays (days when banks, offices, stores, and schools are closed) are based on religious traditions.

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Monday	as appropriate
Labor Day	May 1
Ascension Day	40 days after Easter
Pentecost Monday	51 days after Easter
Independence Day	July 21
Assumption Day	August 1
All saint's Day	November 1
Armistice Day	November 11
King's Name Day or Dynasty Day*	November 15
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day*	December 26

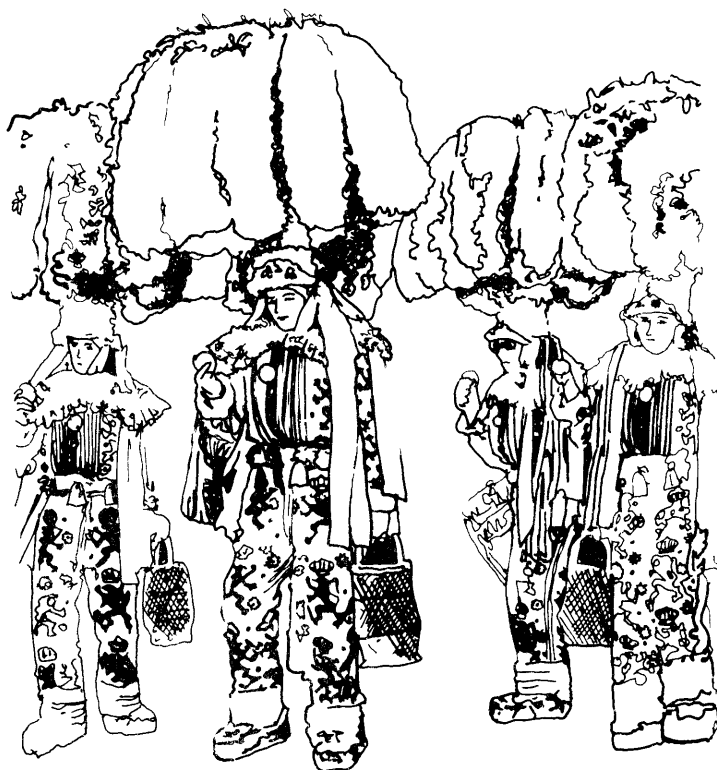
Festivals

Belgians observe many festivals, usually with enthusiasm and frequently as occasions for family reunions. Most festivals are celebrated on Sundays or other public holidays. Among the most interesting are those described on the following pages.

* Not national holidays but institutions and offices are closed.

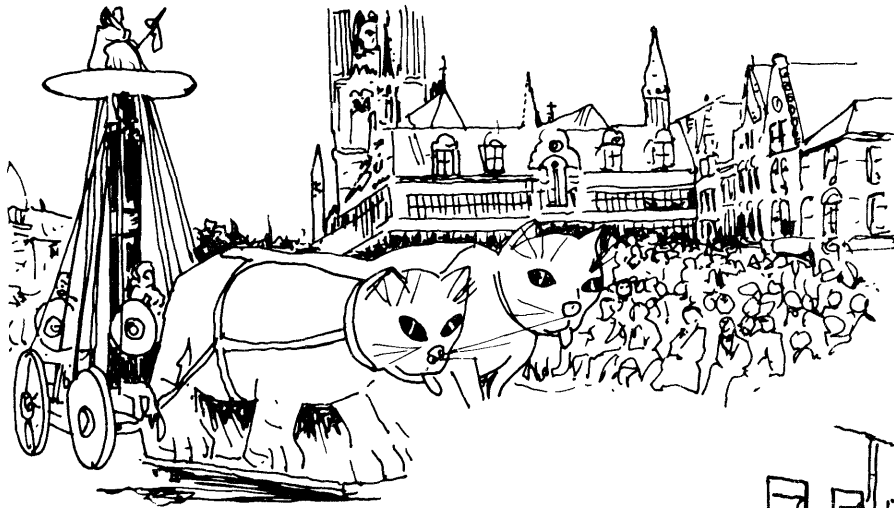
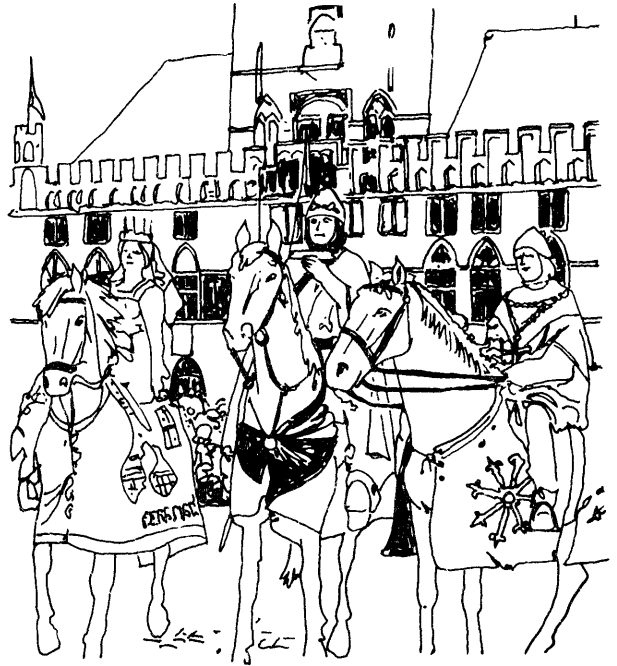
FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

The spectacular dance of the "Gilles" at Binche commemorates the Spanish conquest of Peru in the sixteenth century and early Spanish occupation of Flanders. Exotically plumed and dressed participants throw oranges representing the gold of the Incas.



On the last Saturday in August, the parade of the giants at Ath features the highly colorful wedding of the giant Goliath. The next day wicker-work giants dance through the streets.

Bruges observes one of the more important religious celebrations, the procession of the Holy Blood, by re-enacting the Crusaders' return with their relic, said to contain Christ's blood.



During the parade of the cats at Ypres, replicas of cats and witches are thrown to the crowds.

In Veurne, participants wear characteristically Spanish monks' robes and cowls and carry heavy crosses through the streets in the procession of the penitents on the last Sunday in July. The moving spectacle is a reminder of earlier Spanish rule in Flanders.



Art

Painting

Belgian artistic achievement moves with the times. Historically, during economic upswings, the arts flourished, but during economic downturns, the arts declined. Two exceptional periods--the Burgundian, late in the fifteenth century, and the baroque, early in the seventeenth century--produced renowned artists.

The Flemish painters Jan Van Eyck, Roger Van der Weyden, Quentin Massys and Pieter Brueghel made a major impact on painting during the Burgundian period. Until this time, the church was the chief supporter of the arts, so religion more or less defined aesthetic expression. In the fifteenth century, the Italian Renaissance became a major European influence; simultaneously, the Belgian laity gained economic power and political influence, and more secular art forms reflected their patronage.

During the baroque period, an energetic, sensuous, almost sybaritic style prevailed. Peter Paul Rubens influenced painters like Anthony Van Dyck and David Teniers, and they made Antwerp the center of fine arts in Belgium.

To a lesser degree, in the early twentieth century, Belgian painters of the surrealist school impressed the art world. James Ensor, Constant Permeke, Paul Belvaux and René Magritte earned international respect. An almost photographic realism distinguishes surrealist works which often deal with commonplace subjects bent or otherwise re-formed in unusual perspectives.

Contemporary artists employ many styles of expression and maintain Belgium's reputation for excellence in the arts.

Music

The vicissitudes of Belgian musical creativity parallel those of the other arts: Belgium particularly influenced musical development in the fifteenth, sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.

At the onset of the Burgundian period, Belgium enhanced the polyphony begun in thirteenth century France when the Burgundian school of music emerged and led the northwestern European musical development of three-voice polyphony. Guillaume Dufey and Gilles Binchois were outstanding composers of this period.

In the late 1400s, the Flemish school came about and set the format for the next century's sacred vocal music, distinguished by four-voice polyphony.

Flemish composers of the sixteenth century led the way in musical style and continued disseminating musical knowledge and innovation. Among them, Roland de Lassus made valuable contributions to sacred music and madrigal composition.

Belgium again influenced music to some degree in the nineteenth century. Then, musicians again established outstanding international reputations. Among them were Cesar Franck, the composer and organist, and Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone.

Contemporary musicians experiment and compose; their performances draw international audiences to Belgium's annual musical festivals.

Literature

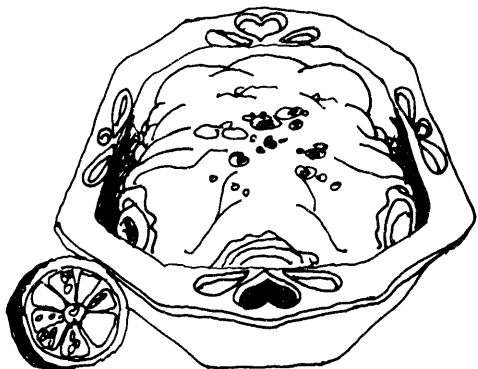
While the visual arts and music can be understood and appreciated without words, language is the essence of literature. Since Belgium is linguistically divided, a national literature is economically unfeasible and culturally impracticable.

Both Flemish and Walloon writers must depend upon the larger Dutch and French-speaking audiences outside of Belgium. At the same time, Flemish and Walloon readers must look to the Netherlands and France for wider choices in literature. This is not to say that there are no fine Belgian writers, but that the authors are usually identified with the Netherlands or France.



Food

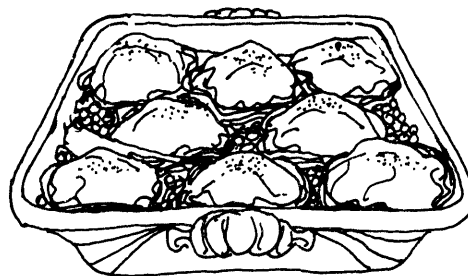
You'll find eating in Belgium an enjoyable adventure. Besides a great variety of delicious beef, pork and mutton dishes, you'll discover many kinds of seafood tastily prepared. In addition, the bakeries will tempt you with breads and pastries almost impossible to resist.



Begin your day with a continental breakfast including coffee with milk or cream and toast, rolls or croissants topped with butter and jam. Continental breakfast is usually served between 7 and 8 a.m. in hotels and cafés; large hotels often serve American breakfasts, too. Restaurants are not usually open for breakfast. The breads and rolls are particularly good in Belgium, baked daily in neighborhood boulangeries-pâtisseries (bakeries-pastry shops). If you're an early riser, you can buy bread warm, even on Sunday mornings.

Generally, dinner is the heaviest meal and includes many courses. You might begin an ordinary one with hors-d'oeuvres or soup, followed by the main dish and then salad, then cheese, and finally, dessert.

Enjoy the broths, chowders or cream soups usually served with dinner but not with lunch. A formal dinner also includes an entrée (appetizer) served after the soup. Cold entrées include pâté, cold cuts, shrimp cocktail, avocados or asparagus, and warm ones might be salmon, eels, stuffed patty shells and soufflés.



For your plat principal (main course), have meat or fish with vegetables: perhaps carbonnade flamandes or ecrevisses à la liégeoise, two of many Belgium specialties. Restaurants offer numerous specialties and a variety of the different courses which you may order à la carte or table d'hôte.

Belgians take great pride in the quality and preparation of their spécialités. Here are just a few of the meat dishes you should try:



Carbonnade flamandes, beef slices with onion stewed in beer

Jambon et saucisson d'Ardenne, Ardenne ham and salami

Witloof au gratin, endives wrapped in ham and smothered in cheese sauce

Boudin de Liège, savory sausage with herbs

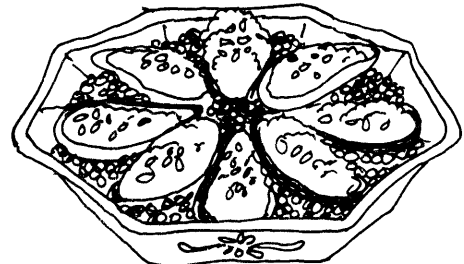
Beef, the most widely liked meat, may be purchased at la boucherie (the butcher shop). Pork, next in popularity--chops, cold cuts, ham and sausage--may be bought at la charcuterie (the delicatessen). Both beef and pork are available at a supermarché (supermarket) or at a combination boucherie-charcuterie. Since Belgian butchers do not cut meat the way American butchers do, note the helpful illustration of meat cuts on page 25.

Restaurants along the coast serve a variety of fresh fish and shellfish. You may also purchase them at la poissonnerie (the fish market). They are sold fresh on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The shops are usually closed on Mondays. Among your choices will be processed fish such as marinated herring, smoked salmon and sardines, or fresh oysters, prawns, shrimp or mussels. Try moules et frites (mussels and french fries), one of the most popular Belgian dishes, or bisque de homard (lobster soup) or sole de Saint Arnould (sole stuffed with hops and croutons), or try:

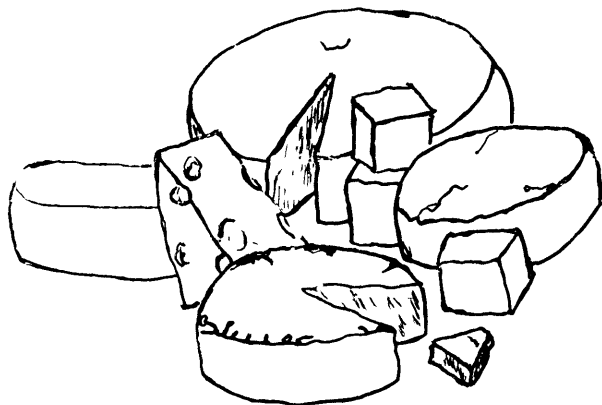
Anguilles au vert, eels prepared in a green herb (chervil) sauce, served hot or cold

Ecrevisses à la liegeoise, crayfish cooked in white wine sauce with butter and cream

Waterzooi, fish or chicken stew served with vegetables and cream



FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

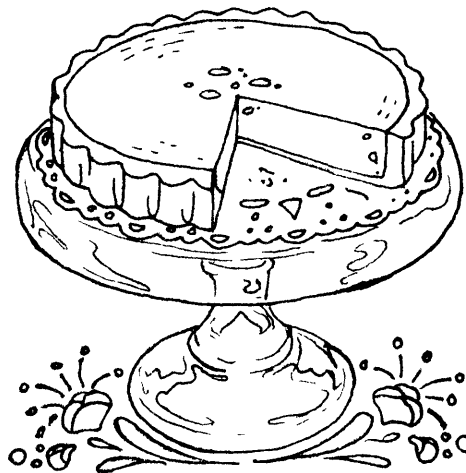


Just after the main course, revive your appetite with a green salad of romaine lettuce along with witloof (endives), particularly delicious in Belgium.

Many fine cheeses, including Chimay, Herve, Huy, Liège and Orray, come from the Walloon area, and popular French, Swiss and Dutch cheeses are also available. In a restaurant, the waiter usually brings un plateau de fromages (a large tray of assorted cheeses) to the table for your selection.

Dessert might be fruit, custard or ice cream, but pastry is the most popular, and delicious, way to end your meal. Many pâtisseries (pastry shops) have tea rooms where you can enjoy pastry and coffee or tea.

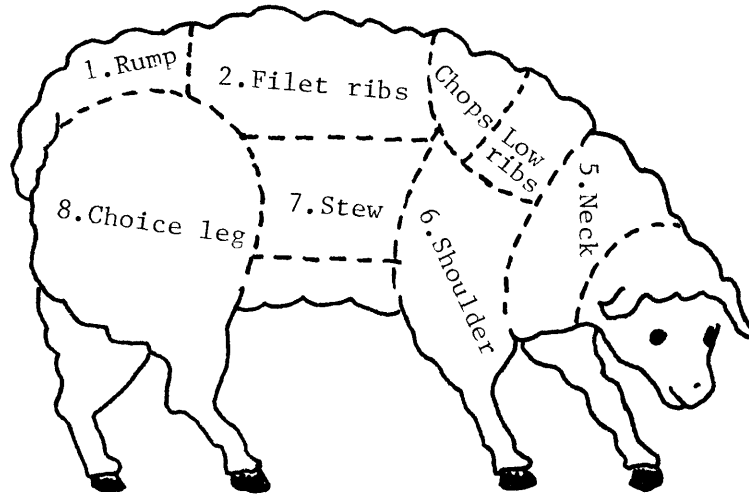
Try Couques de Dinant (gingerbread), gaufres (waffles) which are delicious when warm, craquelin or pain au sucre (loaf bread with melted sugar lumps), tarte au sucre (sugar tart), and speculoos (flat, crisp spice cookies) which are always served with coffee.



Have un café or un filtre (filter coffee) which is not as strong as espresso but stronger than American coffee. It is served black but accompanied by sugar and cream at the end of the meal, usually in small cups similar to demitasse. In a restaurant, only one cup is customarily served, so don't expect the waiter to offer refills.

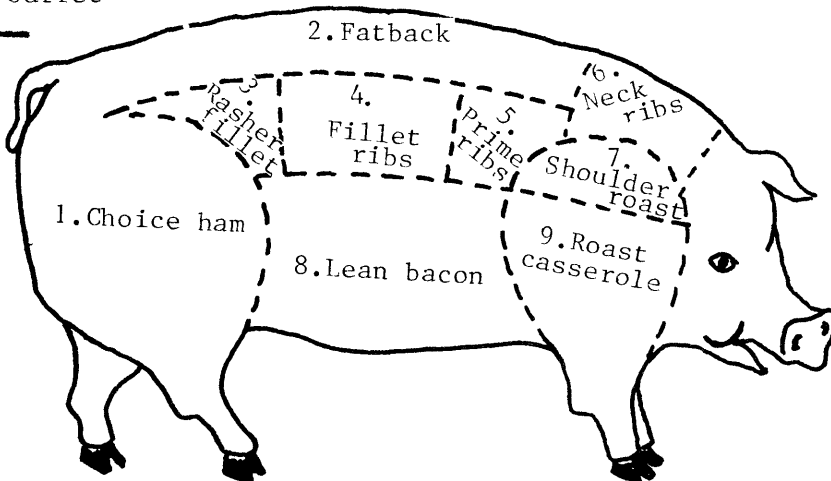
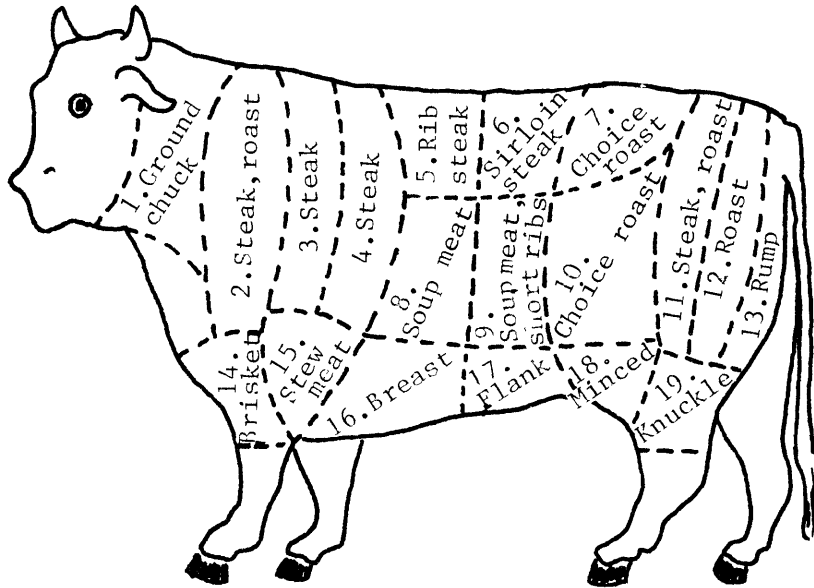
When you patronize a restaurant, remember that the service charge is included in the bill but does not appear as a separate item.

CULTURAL NOTES



1. Bas de gigot
2. Côtes au filet
3. Côtelettes
4. Basses côtes
5. Collier
6. Épaule
7. Ragoût
8. Gigot

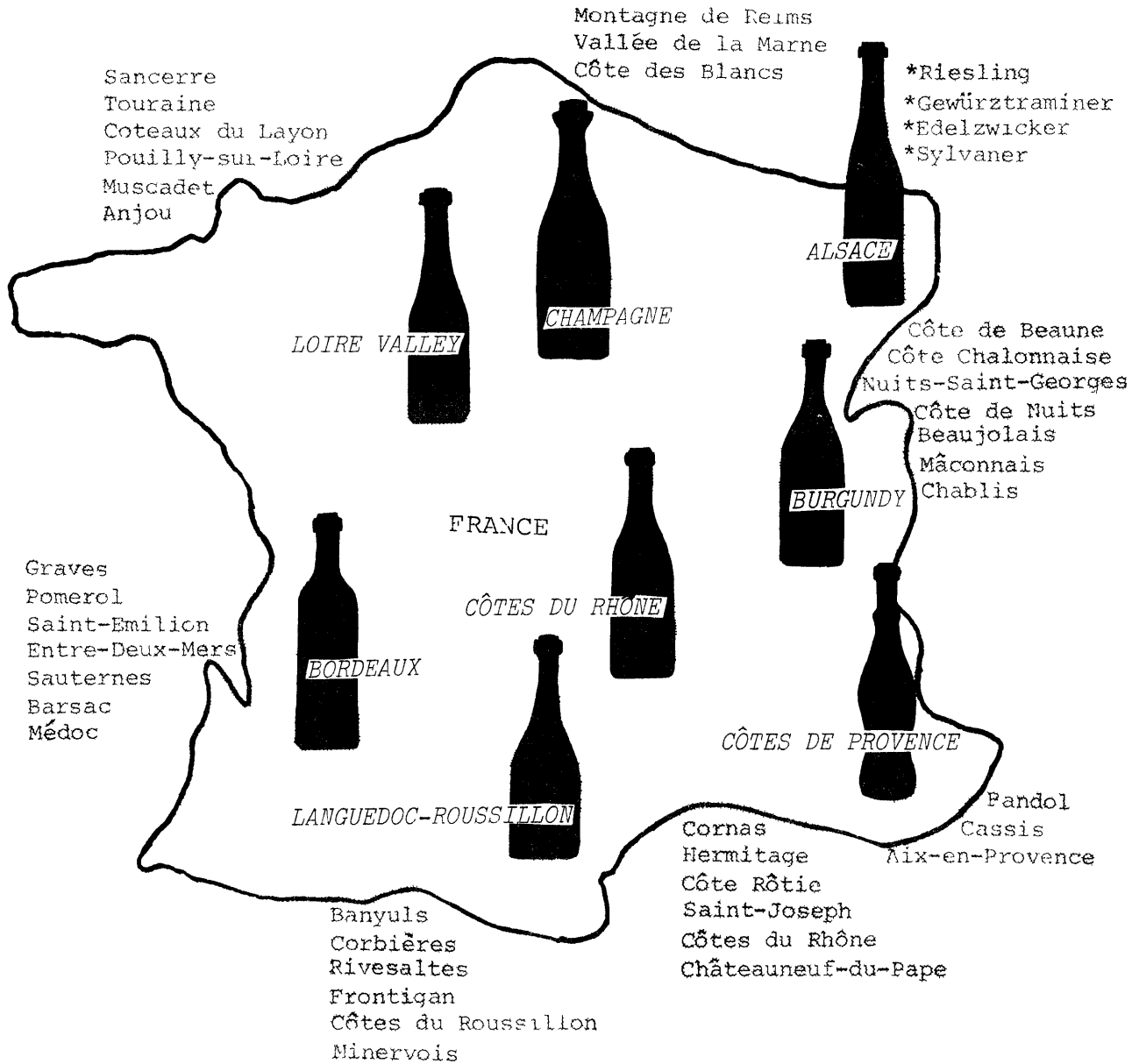
1. Américain
Carbonnades
Haché
2. Beefsteak
Roastbeef
3. Beefsteak
Oetit nerf
4. Beefsteak
5. Entrecôte
6. Contrefilet
7. Roastbeef
8. Bouilli
9. Bouilli
plate côte
10. Roastbeef
11. Beefsteak
Roastbeef
12. Roastbeef
13. Tache noire
14. Poitrine
15. Carbonnades
16. Bouilli
poitrine
17. Bouilli
18. Haché
19. Jarret



1. Rôti au jambon
2. Lard gras
3. Tranches au filet
4. Côtes au filet
5. Côtes premières
6. Côtes au spiering
7. Rôti d'épaule
8. Lard maigre
9. Rôti casserole

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

*Wine-Producing Areas
of France*



Belgium grows delicious grapes near Overrijse but produces little wine. It is imported primarily from France and also from Italy, Spain, Germany, Luxembourg and Algeria. The map above shows the major wine-producing areas of France.

*The wines of Alsace are labeled according to the grapes they are made of rather than the vineyards they come from.

CULTURAL NOTES

For apéritifs (predinner drinks), Belgians usually serve vermouth and red or white porto (port), and drink beer, wine or spring water with lunch or dinner. Young people like sweet drinks such as colas. The beers customarily served with meals include Pills, Stella and Artois. Altogether, Belgium has 300 kinds of beer. The most popular are the strong, slightly sweet Geuze and the cherry-flavored Kriek.

You needn't order a different wine with each course of your meal; however, if you want to be adventurous, the following information might be helpful.

oysters, fish	light, dry wine
entrée	full-bodied dry or light rosé
white meat, poultry	light-bodied red wine or Brut Champagne
red meat, game, cheese	full-bodied, hearty red wine
dessert and pastry	sweet white, dry or semi-dry champagne
les hors-d'oeuvre	Vins de la Loire: Vouvray, Anjou
le poisson	Blancs d'Alsace: Traminer, Riesling
les entrées	Château-Latour, Saint-Emillion
les viandes blanches ou la volaille	Saint-Emillion, Chambertin
les viandes rouges ou les rôtis	Pommard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape
les fromages:	Bordeaux ou Bourgogne, Côtes du Rhône
camembert, pont l'évêque	Médoc, Beaujolais
brie	Vins du Rhône
roquefort	Vins doux de Lorraine
gruyère	

Red wines and rosés are served chambrés (at room temperature) between 15° and 18° C.

White wines and rosés are served frais (chilled) between 5° and 12° C.

Champagne and sparkling wines are served slightly frappé (iced).

Entertainment and Leisure

Belgium offers many diversions, depending on your mood and taste. You'll find concerts, opera, live theater, movies, nightclubs, gambling, sports, outdoor recreation and much more.

Music

The Festival of Flanders and the Festival of Wallonia, offering modern and classical music, attract national and international orchestras and performers. A number of other seasonal affairs include youth music festivals and jazz festivals.

Theater

Most cities have professional and amateur theater, and the larger ones support opera and ballet companies. Belgium's Twentieth Century Ballet troupe is world-renowned.

Films

Movies are popular all over the country. Most are English language films dubbed or subtitled in French or Dutch.

Marionettes

Puppet shows that cleverly satirize current events captivate Belgian audiences, adults as well as children. Toone, the marionette theater in Brussels, is especially good.

Nightclubs

You'll find nightclubs in the larger cities and seaside resorts. Most offer floor shows, but few have dancing because of licensing laws. Private clubs and community-organized events provide opportunities for dining and dancing.



Gambling

You can visit casinos in Blankenberge, Chaud-Fontaine, Dinant, Knokke-Heist, Middelkerke, Namen, Ostend and Spa. If you're a horse-racing fan, you'll find tracks and off-track betting shops in or near large cities. Belgium also runs a state lottery.

Sports and Recreation

Soccer, cycling and pigeon racing are popular national sports. If you're a golf, tennis or squash enthusiast though, expect to spend quite a bit of money to pursue your sport.



The many rivers and the North Sea provide opportunities to canoe, sail, row, water-ski and fish. Sand yachting is an activity unique to the Belgian coast.

Ski in the Ardennes and rock-climb along the Meuse River, or ride horses by the hour or for days, or watch jumping and steeple-chase events. See large game such as wild boar or stag in the Ardennes. If you want to hunt, though, you must get to know Belgian hunters and grounds owners since all hunting areas are privately owned or leased.

Try camping in the Ardennes or along the coast. Both offer excellent campsites. Sometimes, private landowners will permit camping on their property; it never hurts to ask. You might want to spend your vacation on a Belgian farm. This is possible, for a small fee and some physical labor, in the Polders and in the Ardennes.

Practical Tips

Shopping

You can buy almost anything you want in Belgium, the world's store window and one of Europe's primary shopping centers. Brussels is the center of the Common Market, and Belgium imports specialty goods in profusion, resulting in an ample choice.

Besides imports, shops offer excellent Belgian products including linen, lace, shotguns, glass, chocolates, flowers, antiques, and jewelry.

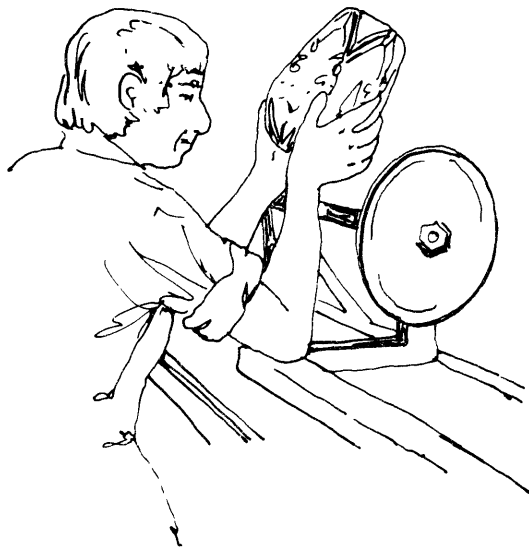


For the hunter or collector, no finer firearms are manufactured anywhere than in Liège. Hand-wrought, hand finished and finely engraved, these guns are usually made by the gunsmith to fit you, and are priced accordingly.

Lace is an important product of Belgium and much of it is homemade, using techniques handed down through generations. Though beautiful and fashionable, it can be very expensive. Try to learn something about lace, and shop around before making any large purchases.

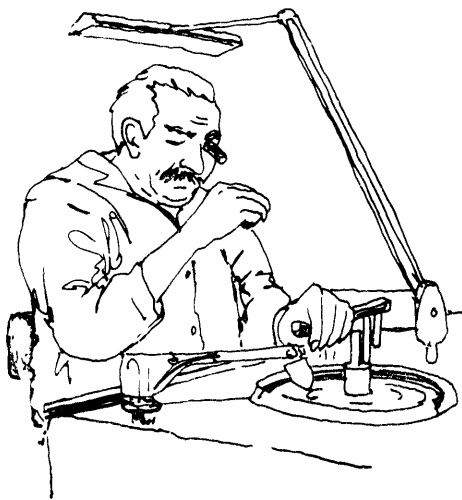


Belgium produces fine linen from sowing the flax to weaving the finished material. Department stores offer a broad selection of household linen at reasonable prices. Remember, if you buy bed linen, Belgian pillow cases are made to fit square pillows.



Belgian craftsmen create remarkable glassware and crystal, the most famous produced in the Val St. Lambert: massive ashtrays, bowls, pots and tableware as well as unique cut-glass vases in colored crystal made by a secret process.

Antique dealers in Brussels, among the most expert in Europe, make that city a rich hunting ground for lovers of old furniture and other antiques. You might save money by going to some of the numerous flea markets where bargaining is acceptable. One negotiating tactic is to state your price, leave your hotel address, and then wait to see what develops. Many auctions also provide opportunities for astute antique buyers.



Jewelry shops in Brussels carry large assortments of finely-crafted jewelry in contemporary and classical designs. Since Antwerp is an important diamond cutting center, you'll find an immense number of gem stones there, either mounted in settings or available for investment.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

If you like chocolates, then Belgium is the place for you. Chocolates come in many forms. The ones with filled centers are known as pralines. In Belgium, buying a box of chocolates would be considered in poor taste and indiscriminating. Instead, after inquiring about the centers, choose your favorites and purchase them by weight. When you buy chocolates for a present, the shop people will elaborately gift wrap them at no extra extra charge.

Belgians present flowers on the slightest provocation. A gift of flowers is never wrong, but its omission might be, especially the first time you visit a private home. Remember that lovers offer red roses to their beloved and that mourners send chrysanthemums to the cemetery.

A final word about shopping: nineteenth century shopping arcades, called "galleries," have been reestablished, particularly in Brussels. These galleries enclose large areas containing a variety of businesses including tea shops, specialty shops, cafes, night clubs, and even automatic banking services. Keen competition keeps prices within reasonable limits. In bad weather, do your shopping in a gallery, and be protected from the elements.

Generally you'll find excellent bargains in January and July when shops and department stores customarily hold clearance sales.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis

Taxis do not generally cruise the streets in Belgium; they wait at taxi stands near large intersections. Telephoning a local taxi company usually brings prompt service day or night.

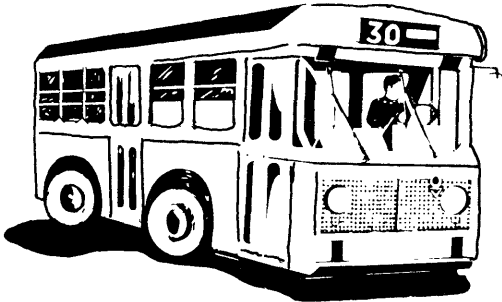
Although taxis in Brussels charge nearly the highest fares in Europe, the tip is usually included in the meter reading. Therefore, it is not necessary to give the driver an additional tip. However, when you request a taxi by telephone, expect an additional charge, and anticipate another charge for each piece of luggage.



Busses

Busses serve most Belgian cities, and Antwerp, Brussels, and Ghent operate trams.

The Société de Transport Intercommunal de Bruxelles (STIB) runs tram and bus service in Brussels. On STIB vehicles you pay the standard rate for un direct (a single fare) in the urban zone, and half-fare for a child under six--unless you hold the tot, who then may travel free.

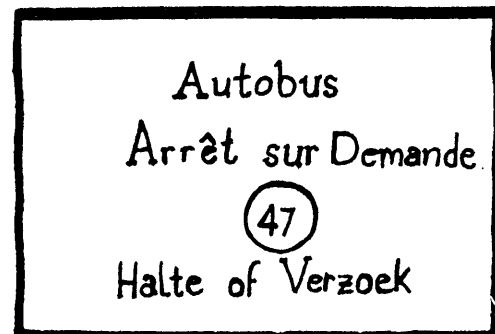


Special tickets are available for students who regularly use the tram or bus to and from school.

Purchase MTB (metro-train-tram-bus) abonnements (passes) for unlimited use of public transportation within the Brussels urban zone for a considerable savings. You can buy passes for the week, the month or the year.

Tourist passes are inexpensive and good for unlimited numbers of bus and tram journeys for two consecutive days. Since they are issued only to foreign nationals, passports must be shown to obtain them.

All passes and student tickets are available in the season ticket office at the Porte de Namur metro station. At the same station, the STIB information center offers schedules, route maps and general information, and fields inquiries about lost or found property.



To transfer from one tram or bus to another, obtain a transit upon boarding. This entitles you to one change to any intersecting bus line. In metro stations, the white slip that comes out of the urban turnstile is the transit. When using the automatic card-punching machine on a bus, you can get the transit by pushing the button on the machine located above the card-punching machine. If you pay cash, simply tell the driver, "Transit."

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

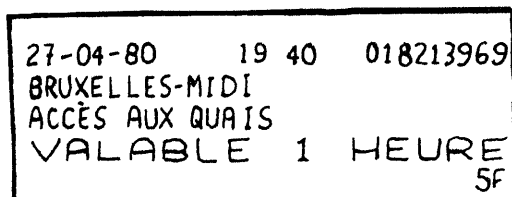
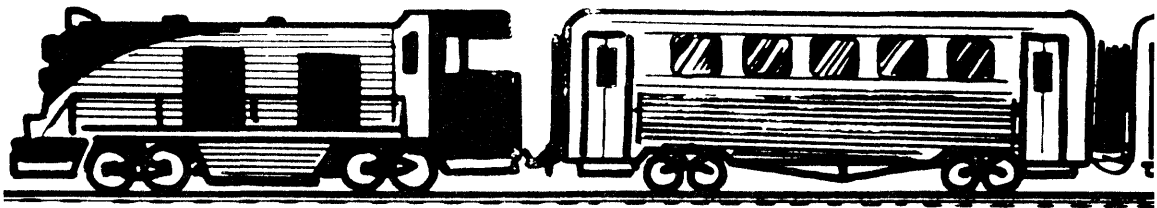
Hold on to ticket and transit slips throughout the ride. Inspectors often carry out spot checks, and riders without slips are subject to substantial fines.

The Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux runs transportation service to outlying towns and suburbs. This nationally owned company operates a cross-country network of red and cream-colored busses as well as two tram lines in the Charleroi area. The fares are based on the distance you travel, and you must state your destination when buying your ticket.

Trains

The national railway system, Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Belges (SNCB), has four main stations in Brussels:

Gare Centrale (for trains within Belgium and rapid shuttle service to the national airport),
Gare du Midi (domestic and international trains),
Gare du Nord (domestic and international trains), and
Gare Quartier Léopold (domestic and some international trains).

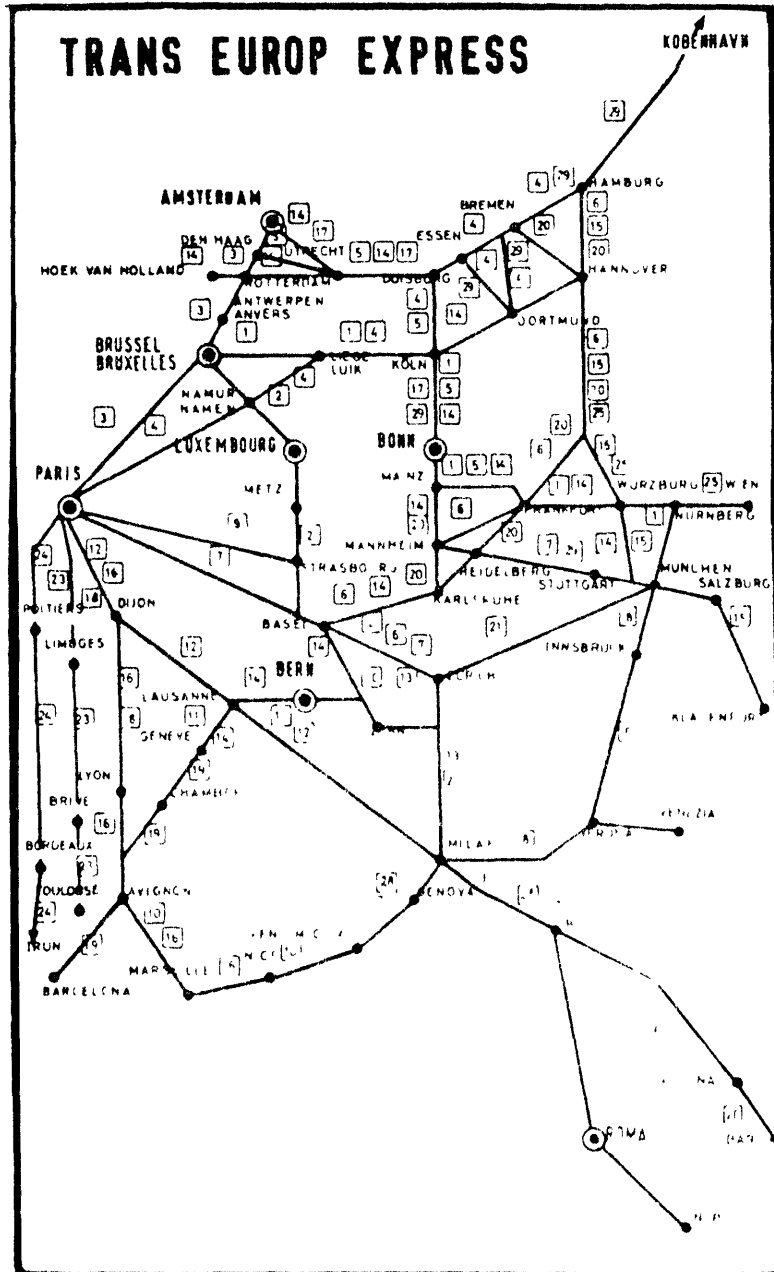


If you want to enter the passenger platform without a valid train ticket, you must buy un billet d'accès aux quais OR un ticket de quai (a platform pass). Available in vending machines in front of the ticket control, the passes are time-stamped and good for one hour.

European trains have first-class and second-class carriages. Deluxe express trains called Trans-European-Express (TEE) connect Brussels with other major European cities for first-class fare.

Sleeping cars, called wagon-lits, have first and second-class compartments or first and second-class berths called couchettes. Make your reservations at least 24 hours in advance, either at a train station or through a local travel agent.

If you're planning an extended trip and wish to take your car, inquire about auto-couchettes (car sleepers). Your car can be loaded at the Gare de Schaerbeek and transported on your train to such places as Milan, Salzburg, Ljubljana, and the South of France.



On Belgian trains, children under four travel free; those between four and 10 pay half-fare, and those over 10 pay full, adult fare.

Students and youths, 18 to 26, may travel at reduced rates on many railroads in Europe. Ask for information at the Gare du Midi.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

Abréviations Usuelles
Some Common Abbreviations

S.N.C.B.	Société Nationale des Chemins de Fers Belges	Belgian National Railways
S.N.C.V.	Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux	Suburban Service Transportation
S.T.I.B.	Société de Transport Intercommunal de Bruxelles	Brussels Public Transportation Network
S.N.C.F.	Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français	French National Railways
TEE	Trans-Europ-Express	Trans-European-Express

HORAIRES DES TRAINS

Service Effectif du 28 Mai au 30 Septembre 1978

DE PARIS NORD A AMSTERDAM

N° DES TRAINS	TEE 79	TEE 81	RAP 281	RAP 283	TEE 83	RAP 433	RAP 285	TEE 85	TEE 87	RAP 287	TEE 89	EXP 289	RENVOIS
RENVOIS	1 2 3	2	1 2 4	1 2 4	1 2 3	1 2 4	1 2 4	1 2	1 2 3	1 2 5	1 2	1 2 3 6	
PARIS NORD	D 6 44	7 22	7 50	10 30	11 40	13 00	15 19	17 44	18 44	19 30	20 31	23 49	1 Train à supplément obligatoire (TEE)
ST QUENTIN	A		9 13	11 45		14 13	16 46			20 51	21 41	1 43	+ Dimanches et fêtes seulement
MONS	A		10 20	12 40		15 09	17 39			21 51	22 27	4 56	x Restaurants
BRUXELLES M	A 9 05	9 43	10 50	13 14	14 03	15 48	18 17	20 05	21 05	22 26	22 59	5 39	1 Jusqu'au 27 et à partir du 29 sauf samedis dimanches et fêtes
BRUXELLES M	A 9 13	10 00	11 00	13 39	15 00	16 00	19 00	21 00	22 00	23 00	23 31	6 00	2 Douane entre Paris et Bruxelles
GENT (St PIETER)	A 9 45	10 30	11 30	14 11	15 30	16 30	19 30	21 30	22 30	23 33	0 13	6 30	3 ANTWERPEN CENTRAAL
BRUGGE	A 10 12	10 57	11 57	14 37	15 57	16 57	19 58	21 57	22 57	0 00	0 50	6 57	4 Douane entre Aulnoye et Bruxelles
OSTENDE	A 10 29	11 13	12 13	14 55	16 13	17 18	20 14	22 12	23 13	0 15	1 10	7 14	5 Douane entre St Quentin et Bruxelles
BRUXELLES M	D 9 09	9 50	11 06	13 28	14 09	16 00	18 31	20 13	21 09	22 31	23 03	6 18	6 De Paris Nord à Aulnoye du 17-18 juin au 2-3 sept toutes les nuits
BRUXELLES NORD	A 9 16	9 55	11 11	13 33	14 16	16 05	18 36	20 18	21 16	22 38	23 08	6 25	les nuits du 9-10 et 16-17 septembre
ANVERS BERCHEM	A 9 46	10 24	11 44	14 06	14 46	16 09	19 09	20 48	21 46			7 04	
ROSENDAL	A 10 20	10 50	12 12	14 34	15 20	16 37	19 37	21 14	22 20			7 44	
ROTTERDAM	A 11 0	11 31	13 02	15 19	16 01		20 23	21 49	23 0			8 35	
LA HAYE	A 1 20	1 49	3 22	5 33	6 19		20 44	22 07	23 1			8 59	
AMSTERDAM	A 12 05	12 30	4 12	6 30	7 05		21 30	22 45	0 0			9 43	

AMSTERDAM A PARIS NORD

N° DES TRAINS	TEE 78	TEE 80	RAP 280	RAP 1182	RAP 282	TEE 82	RAP 284	RAP 412	TEE 84	TEE 86	RAP 286	TEE 88	EXP 288	RENVOIS
RENVOIS	1 2 4	2	1 3	1 2 6	1 2 3	1 2	1 2 3	1 2	1 2 7 9	1 2 5 9	1 2 3	1 2 7	1 2 8 1	x Semaine seulement
AMSTERDAM	D			6 58	7 50	8 56	10 55		13 26	15 26	15 55	18 01	20 29	y Restaurant
LA HAYE	A			7 46	8 40	9 38	11 40		14 10	16 10	16 37	18 40	21 17	A Train nord en 1 ^{re} et 2 ^e classe d'Amsterdam à Bruxelles M assurant la correspondance du TEE pour Paris. Ce train passe à Antwerpen Central
ROTTERDAM	A			8 10	9 05	10 05	12 07		14 37	16 36	16 56	18 56	21 35	
ROSENDAL	A			8 31	9 43	10 51	12 47		15 11	17 12	17 47	19 35	22 21	
ANVERS BERCHEM	A 9 01			10 11	11 26	12 36	14 33	Koln	15 45	17 47	18 15	20 00	23 04	1 ANTWERPEN CENTRAL
BRUXELLES NORD	A 9 51			11 04	12 21	13 28	15 26		16 16	18 19	18 48	20 36	23 37	2 Douane entre Bruxelles et Paris
BRUXELLES M	A 9 38	7 19	8 1	11 05	12 24	13 33	15 33		16 23	18 26	18 53	20 35	23 44	
OSTENDE	D 7 42	8 0	6 46	8 59	9 50	10 50	12 50	14 50	15 50	16 50	17 50	18 50	22 50	3 Douane entre Bruxelles et Aulnoye
BRUGGE	D 8 09	6 07	7 06	9 26	10 04	11 06	13 06	14 06	16 07	17 06	18 06	19 06	23 04	
GENT (St PIETER)	D 8 54	6 33	7 33	9 53	10 53	11 53	13 53	14 53	16 33	17 33	18 33	19 3	23 33	4 Jusqu'au 27 et à partir du 29 sauf samedis dimanches et fêtes
BRUXELLES M	D 6 29	8 0	8 04	10 14	11 04	12 04	14 01	16 04	17 03	18 04	19 04	20 04	0 05	
BRUXELLES M	A 6 47	8 30	8 15	10 14	11 03	11 43	14 0	16 08	17 17	18 41	19 07	20 45	0 37	5 Jusqu'au 27 et à partir du 29 sauf samedis dimanches et fêtes
MONS	A			10 40	11 33	12 42	14 42	16 33			19 42		1 28	6 Du 30-6 ou 28-7 les vendredis
ST QUENTIN	A			9 44	10 29	11 37	13 37	15 35			20 41		1 45	7 Douane entre Bruxelles et Paris
PARIS NORD	A 9 05	10 57	11 11	13 15	14 05	15 05	17 05	18 52	19 41	20 0	22 30	24 07	6 40	8 De Aulnoye à Paris du 17-6 au 2-9 les 9 et 16-9

NOTA: Il est précisé que les horaires données ci-dessus sont en heures locales.
Tout horaire qui n'est pas indiqué est en heures locales.

Cars

Gas coupons. If you're entitled to logistical support, obtain a ration card and gas coupons permitting you to buy gas at one-third the regular price. These are sold in 200-liter booklets. Note that unleaded or low-lead gas is not readily available.

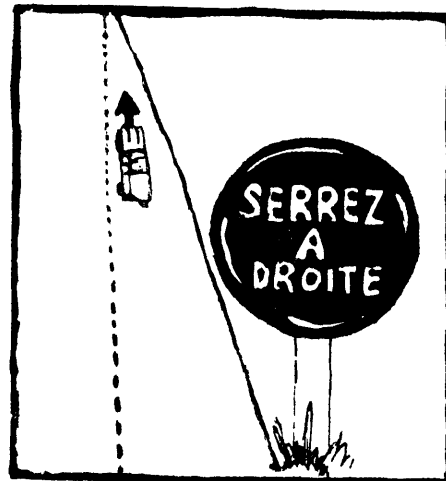


If you have a red SB (SHAPE Belgium) license plate, exchange your coupons at FINA stations. If your plate is a red and white CD (Corps Diplomatique/Embassy) or EVN (NATO), exchange your coupons at Chevron and ESSO stations.

Rules of the road. An official handbook called the Code de la Route contains all road regulations. You can purchase it at bookstores and automobile clubs.

When driving, always carry your identification papers, driver's license, car registration (carte grise "grey card"), and insurance papers.

The most important rule to remember is that the car to the right has the right of way unless road signs indicate otherwise, or unless it enters a paved road from a dirt road or emerges from a driveway or parking place on the right.



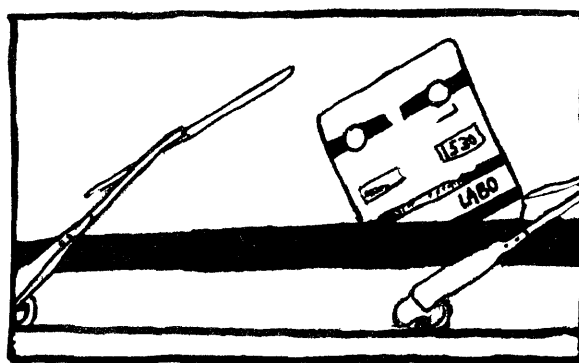
Trams have priority at all times. Watch out for tram stop signs since you are not allowed to pass a tram on the right while it is stationary with its doors open. Try to avoid driving and stopping on tram tracks, and always leave enough clearance for a tram to pass you. In addition, give way to busses signaling to move away from bus stops.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

A word of warning. Belgium's rigorous safety laws require that drivers and front-seat passengers wear seat belts at all times. Furthermore, children under 12 may not ride in front or be held by anyone riding in the front seat unless all back-seat space is already occupied by other children under 12.

Many roads in Belgium do not have marked dividing lines. Where there are lines, however, use the left-hand lanes only when passing or when traffic conditions require it. Watch for road signs and arrow markings on the road. Always use your signals when changing lanes, making turns, or parking.

Summons and parking tickets. Always stop when a policeman or gendarme signals you to do so. He will state your offense and ask for your identification and driver's license. If you receive a ticket for speeding or faulty parking, pay it by purchasing special fiscal stamps at the post office.



Affix the stamps to the written summons, and send half the form to the police station indicated; keep the other half for a receipt. Pay immediately; otherwise, you will be summoned to the local police station and the traffic violation will go on your official record. Many police stations have English-speaking agents on duty several hours a week, and you can arrange to see them at those times.

Offenses. The law distinguishes between "ordinary" and "serious" traffic offenses. "Serious" offenses include disobeying a traffic policeman's order, ignoring a priority sign, going through an orange or red light, endangering a pedestrian, exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 kph, or overtaking in a no-passing zone.

Fines for these might range from 2 000 BF to more than 15 000 BF, and imprisonment from less than a week to more than a month. In addition, the public prosecutor can temporarily revoke a driver's license without a court verdict.

Speed limits in Belgium are 120 kph on autoroutes and four-lane highways, 90 kph on most other roads and 60 kph in cities.

Drunk driving. The maximum alcoholic content permitted is .08 percent (in the United States, a driver with 0.1 percent of alcohol in his blood is presumed intoxicated). This translates to about two glasses of wine, one whiskey or two or three beers consumed half an hour before driving.



Drivers may be stopped and asked to take balloon tests or to submit to blood tests if they are suspected of driving while drunk. Drivers may ask for half-hour postponements of the tests, though.

The penalties for drunk driving are high fines and/or lengthy prison terms.

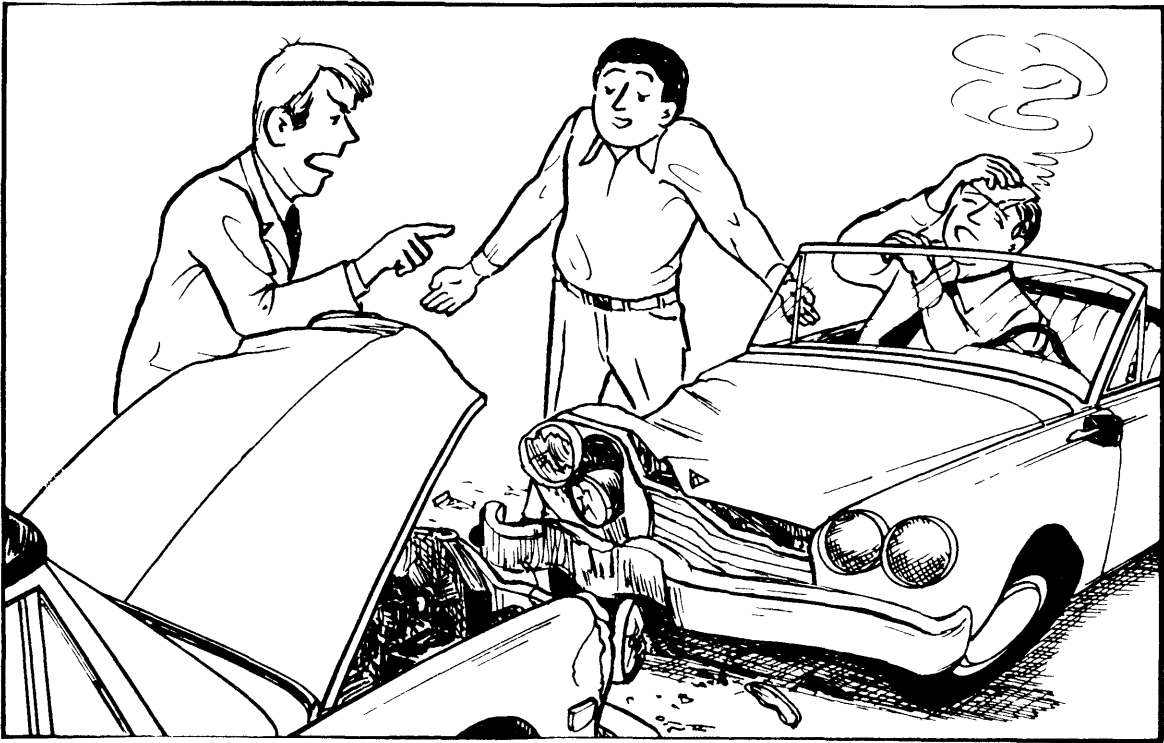
Accident and Insurance. The law requires third party liability insurance, and you must always carry your green card as proof of coverage, and always keep an accident report form, constat accident/vastestelling van ongeval, in your car. This must be filled out completely by the parties involved in a mishap so that you can have each person's version immediately and can avoid inaccuracies which may result from delays. Although forms are available in English, you may describe the accident on a form printed in any other language. If possible, get the names and addresses of witnesses in case of a dispute later on.

If no one is injured, the police might not even appear. If the report form is properly filled out, their presence should not be necessary. If someone is hurt, however, even slightly, call the local police or gendarmerie immediately and request an ambulance at the same time if one is needed. City tunnels and autoroutes have telephones for this purpose. Do not move your car before the police arrive. When filling out your report form, note where the police are from so that they can be located later on. If someone has been killed, a high-ranking agent of the police or gendarmerie will come to make a report.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

Within 24 hours of the accident, mail the accident report to your insurance company or broker who will tell you the assessor to contact to arrange an appointment at the garage you select to make repairs. Try to plan this for early morning or early afternoon since assessors have big work loads and tend to run late as the day progresses.

After the assessor and the garage owner negotiate a price, repair work can be started. Normally, you pay the bill and then send a claim to the insurance company unless there is a total write-off.



Important to remember. Use front fog lights, antibrouillards, only in fog, snow storms, or heavy rain which reduces visibility to less than 200 meters. They may substitute for dimmed headlights, or they may be switched on at the same time as the headlights. Full beams are inadvisable under these conditions.

Rear fog lights are compulsory in fog or snow storms which reduce visibility to less than 100 meters. Use them only in these two cases. Never switch them on in heavy rain, even if visibility is reduced to less than 100 meters, owing to the glare they cause reflecting off the highway.

Tire treads must be at least one millimeter deep.

BRUSSELS TO OTHER CITIES

Brussels to Belgian Cities	Distance in Kilometers	Brussels to European Cities	Distance in Kilometers
Antwerp	51	Amsterdam	198
Arlon	187	Frankfurt	373
Bruges	97	Geneva	656
Charleroi	54	London	256
Ghent	56	Milan	902
Liège	98	Paris	292
Mons (SHAPE)	57	Vienna	1 099
Namur	63		
Ostend	111		
NATO-SHAPE via freeway	72		



FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

UTILITIES

Gas and Electricity

Since electrical circuits in Belgian homes and apartments carry less amperage than those in American residences, check to be sure the circuits can handle your American appliances. If you need more power, you can pay the electric company to install a larger meter. Be sure to secure your landlord's permission first. In addition, you must use transformers with American-made appliances since Belgian electricity is generated at 220 volts, 50 cycles.

TARIF	N° COMPTEUR	MOIS JOURS	INDEX ACTUEL	ANCIEN INDEX	CONSOMMATION	M3/AN	RIX	M3/AN	RIX	M3/AN	RIX	RELEVANCE	TOTAL	% TVA
G34	4045527	12	60338	52682	7656					7656	4,57	2.669,00	17.656,92	6
E50	6315387	12	11501	7452	4049					4049	2,73	1.337,05	12.390,82	16
						1 M3 = 35,169 MJ								
					16/05/78		ACOMPTE GAZ,HORS TVA					-28.575,00	6	
							ACOMPTE ELECTRICITE,HORS TVA					-10.525,00	16	
ME CHAPELLE BERNADETTE AV R CHEVALIER 87					1200 WOLUWE S LAMBERT		FACTURE		T.V.A. 6PC	SUR	9.081,92	545,00		
							T.V.A. 16PC		SUR	1.865,82	299,00			
							6.653		2.230	24/04/1978	11.792			
							GAZ		ELECTRICITE	DATE DU RELEVÉ	BOLDE			
							PROCHAINS ACOMPTE (HORS T.V.A.)							

RIER DE CETA HER VJRE H F IN C AVIS MPORTANTS AU VERSO

UNERG SA

133 CHAUSSEE D I XELLES 1090 BRUXELLES

Bimonthly billing for gas and electricity is based on a two-month average of the previous year's consumption. Your facture d'acompte (bimonthly payment) is credited to your account, and that is balanced once a year when the meter is read. At that time, you'll receive a statement showing the exact totals for the gas and electricity consumed in the year, and any credit or balance due.

CULTURAL NOTES

Utility company representatives wear caps carrying the company's insignia, and they have identification cards that you should ask to see.

If you are gone when the representative arrives to read your meter, he will leave a blue card instructing you either to read it yourself or to leave your key with a neighbor.

Every user is entitled to a set amount of cubic meters of water each year and is billed for quantities used over that amount. Special groups--the retired, the handicapped or those with low incomes--are allowed larger amounts of free water.

DATE DATUM		N ^o	BULLETIN DE VERSEMENT STORTINGSBILJET	
			20	1001
		COMpte BENEFICIAIRE REKENING VAN DE BIJGONSTIGDE	MONTANT BEDRAG	
		498-4201171-19	-11.792---	
DE/VAN		POUR/VOOR		
B. CHAPELLE		UNERG S.A.		
AV R CHEVALIER 87		133, CHAUSSEE D'IXELLES		
1200 WOLUWE S LAMEERT		1050 BRUXELLES		
COMMUNICATION - MEDEDELING				
PAIEMENT FACTURE 16/05/78 (GAZ, ELECTRICITE)				
PRIERE DE NE RIEN ECRIRE CI-DESSOUS / GELIEVE NIETSMOER NIETS TE SCHRIJVEN				

Belgian banks and post offices accept postal payment forms for your water, gas, electric or telephone bills. You may also pay in cash at any post office.

FRENCH HEADSTART for BELGIUM

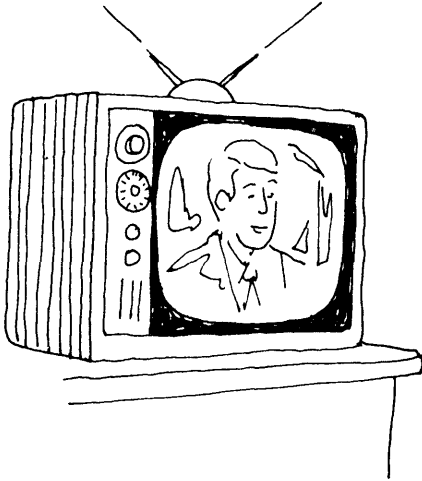
Telephone

Getting a telephone installed often takes quite a while, sometimes as long as three months. As soon as you get a subscriber's contract, fill it out and return it to the Régie des Télégraphes et Téléphones (RTT).

Installation costs about BF 6 000, and you'll be billed as soon as the contract is processed. Pay as soon as possible, even though your phone might not be installed until much later.

As soon as you get your telephone, you'll be charged a provision (deposit). If your next three billings are more than your deposit, RTT will charge an augmentation de provision (additional amount) on your next bill. This is added to your initial deposit and kept by the company until your telephone is disconnected. Then it will be credited to your account for the final billing.

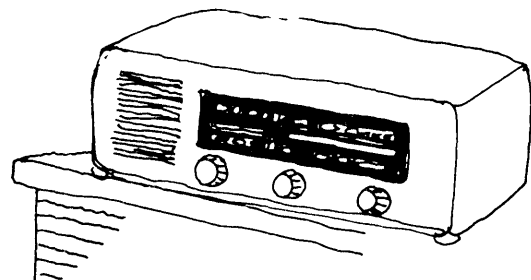
You will receive your telephone bill every two months. The basic fee is paid in advance, but your calls for the prior two months are paid in arrears. Local calls cost a set amount, regardless of length. Calls made outside the city and country are charged according to unit (the distance called and the duration of the call). Consequently, the number of units charged varies. Keep in mind that, if a particular unit is 58 seconds and the call lasts 59 seconds, you'll be billed for two units.

Television and Radio

Although you can sometimes receive the four Belgian television stations by using a regular antenna, you'll need a cable connection to pick up a wider range of broadcasts including two French-speaking Belgian, two Dutch-speaking Belgian, one Luxembourgian, three French, three German and two Dutch networks. In some parts of Belgium, you can receive BBC and other London programs. You'll also find American movies and TV programs on the Dutch and Belgian-Flemish stations.

Each commune in the Brussels area is serviced by the particular cable company based in that community. Check with the city administrative office for the company that handles cable TV in your area. The cable subscription is separate from the regular annual license fees on all TV sets and radios that help defray the operating expenses of Belgian programs.

Brussels has two state-owned radio-TV stations, the Dutch-speaking Belgische Radio en Televisie (BRT) and the French-speaking Radio Diffusion-Relevision Belge (RTB). Radio broadcasts come from other regions as well, and there are privately-owned radio stations, too. Both French and Flemish networks transmit AM. There are few French but many Flemish FM transmissions.





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Bruges -Quai Rozenhoed
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