

L has S E N N E



The Seine is a river typically ' belge' which runs out on nearly 100 km through three areas. It forms part of the Eastern basin of the Scheldt.

During several centuries, it constituted for all this area a vital artery, source of development and progress...

But today, all seem to have forgotten what this river brought to them.

*The
Seine*

*one
river
who is
lost!*

There is more than 1000 years, the Seine was a gracious river, formant of many meanders and small islands, very full of fish and where flowered abundantly the yellow iris, symbol of the Area of Brussels-Capital.

With the O C century, on these small islands (and in particular the Saint-Gery small island) and marshy grounds the franks based ' Bruoscella' (the house in the marsh), agricultural village which became Brussels later.

For a long time, its inhabitants used the Seine, both for fishing navigation. As of the XI^E century, a port was held with the heart of Brussels.

Very many water mills, ponds, stoppings, installed on the Seine and its affluents, allowed the economic, urban and social development of Brussels.

The Seine formed at that time two principal arms in Brussels, separating with the hamlet from Aa (Anderlecht), as well as many

secondary junctions, natural or artificial (in particular ' small Senne' and various ditches of the fortifications).

This situation radically changed to the XIX^E century: the risings of the Seine caused many damage in Brussels, the more so as one less and less left place with the river for épandre his sudden changes of mood frightening and dreaded.

Moreover, the increasing quantities of worn water (even of rubbish) rejected by the dwellings and later by industry (in particular laundries, dyeings, basket makings, breweries, tanneries...), transformed the river into in the open air sewer, at the origin of sporadic epidemics.



The nauseous odors which emerged some are particularly marked at the time of low-water.

Since 1434, the Seine is channeled for navigation. But with the creation of the channel of Brussels to Rupel in 1561, it loses this function.

Under the impulse of Jules Anspach, burgomaster of Brussels, the first work of "voûtement" of the Seine will be completed of 1867 to 1877. The Seine is arched between ' the station of midday and the station of the nord', the houses and unhealthy lanes destroyed and of the grand boulevards ' in Parisienne' built on the old bed (current boulevards of the South, Lemonnier and Anspach, as all the buildings which enclose them).



Apart from this zone, the Seine continues to run in the open air, but a network of collectors of worn water and the widening of the Seine to the downstream of Brussels will be carried out.

Between 1931 and 1955 were carried out work of diversion and the second voûtement of the Seine in his crossing of Brussels, giving him its current provision. It is arched since the street of the Veterinary surgeons to the quay of the Factories while following the Poincaré boulevards and of the Slaughter-house, then the channel from Charleroi in Brussels and the green Alley...

There is little still, the Seine received worn water of Brussels without any purification. The situation is hardly more brilliant in the other areas, less than 30% of the worn water rejected into the Seine being purified in Walloon Area and hardly 2% in Flemish Area.

Result after more than one century of this policy: an increasingly artificial river, practically transformed into sewer, which represents one of the principal sources of pollution of the Scheldt and the North Sea

Fortunately, from here 2005-2006, the quality of water could improve. The first station of purification of water in Area of Brussels-Capital, the station of Brussels-south, took up duty to the autumn 2000. It treats a third of worn water of the capital. Other stations of purification should be born in the next years in the 3 Areas. Will they give again with the river this water ' claires' of antan?



But it should not be forgotten that a river is a natural environment. It will thus be necessary also to give again a little place to nature and why not, to give the river to open sky? Perhaps will be able again to then benefit itself from the simple pleasures of fishing or the walks along our river?

SEE !

While waiting, some small corners of Seine preserved their charm of antan or make it possible to discover the history. With you of (the re)découvrir. For that, you arm with a little perseverance and a good chart and follow the guide...

1. The Seine sympathetic nerve

Industrial park of the quay of Aa (since the International boulevard): at the bottom of the zoning, while going towards the bridge of the railway, you will arrive at a bridge which spans the Seine. The river kept here a certain seal with its meanders, its banks 'naturelles' invaded by the vegetation. But the water of the Seine is already well disturbed by the worn water discharges of Flanders and Wallonia.

While passing the bridge of the railway, carry on your way and you will arrive then at a junction; it is the outfall of storm of Anderlecht (this part of the way is malheureusemnt today inaccessible, the outfall is only visible since the lock of Anderlecht). These outfalls allow in rainy weather to deviate water of the Seine towards the channel - avoiding thus that Brussels is not flooded! By reassembling this outfall a little, you will note that its banks are well maintained... indeed, it is not rare to see there sheep which feed peacefully, one of the last sheep-folds of Brussels y having elected residence.

Other with dimensions of the International boulevard, with with dimensions of Viangros, is the rejection of the station of purification of Brussels-South. The station itself is located

Industriel boulevard, with horse on Anderlecht and Forest. This first station - entry in function with the autumn 2000- draft worn water of St-Gilles, Forest, Uccle and Anderlecht. But that is not enough to give again with the river of clear and full of fish water...

Street Bollinckx (of the lock of Anderlecht): this small street in dead end will bring you to the last arm and meander of the Seine to the free air in the Area of Brussels-Capital.

photograph

When it is thought that in the recent past, Brussels was only arm of river (small Seine, Grande Seine....) and small islands (St-Géry, St Helene....). The principal course of the Seine is bordered of many garden-kitchen gardens.

2. *The Arched Seine*

Street of the Veterinary surgeons (before the bridge of the railway while coming from Anderlecht): behind the service station *the currententry of vouïtement* of the Seine in Brussels is.

photograph

Poincaré boulevard: in the cellars of the restaurant ' Large Écluse' is the old lock which made it possible to control the level of water of the Seine in Brussels. It acts of the entry of the first vouïtement of the Seine. Small anecdote: it was not rare that to avoid floods in Brussels, one causes floods in the Brabant by closing the valves...

Carry from Anderlecht: The Museum of the sewers

The old house of granting of Anderlecht is the only place where you can have access to the sewers - but especially to vouïtement of the Seine...

Old bed of the Seine in Saint-Gery

Between the convent of Rich person-Clear and the relay of the Gold Lion the old bed of the Seine is (in fact a secondary arm) when it still ran with sky open in Brussels. Today, this bed was reconstituted such as in the beginning but well fortunately, it is not fed any more by the Seine!

[reconstitution of one of the dead arms of the in the open air river, in full center (street Saint-Gery 23), which one reaches by the shop of a hanging wholesaler]

3. *The industrial Seine*

The Seine of Haren with Buda

Street of Rupel, behind of the dechettery, one finds a small section of the Seine with open sky

Starting from the mills Cérés (old Flour-milling of Brussels), between the channel of Brussels to the Scheldt and the avenue of Vilvoorde, the Seine runs out with sky open between the industrial facilities one can in particular discover it since the bridge of Buda or the roadway of Buda.

On this level, the Seine - which already received many worn water discharges of the agglomeration of Brussels - is completely concreted and biologically 'morte'...

Between the Seine and the channel, just in the north of the Bridge of Buda, from here 2006 the future station of purification of Brussels-North must rise designed to treat two thirds remaining of worn water of the capital.

Coordination Seine, brings together all the people and associations which wish the improvement of the Seine: cleansing of water, leisures, tourism, landscapes and nature in the valley of the Seine.

Coordination Seine c/o the Scheldt without
Borders
quay of the Barges (à) - B-1000 Brussels
SUCH: 32+ 22 01 08 08 MOVE: info@gs-esf.be

The documentation and information center on the water and the valley of the Seine

You will find there many information concerning the valley of the Seine. In edge of the channel, to the quay of the Barges (à) - B-1000 Brussels - Opened from 9 to 12 and 14 to 17 h. or on go.

Coordination Seine also organizes guided tours on the topic of '*nature and environment in the valley of*

Senne' at the request of groups (general public or high-schools - 20 people minimum - to the tariff of 3,75 €

Additional information:

- A video cassette "Descent of the Seine": 14 minutes to traverse the Seine in images and the kayak.... You will see that in spite of its reputation of in the open air sewer, the Seine can still astonish us and to show us beautiful landscapes with two steps from on our premises!
- The Newspaper of the Seine n°1 (October 2000): The state of the Seine to the day before of the 21st century) and n°2 (2001-January December 2002) (1,86 €)

- The Valley of the Seine as you have it never yet vue' - July 2000, (1,25 €): 18 walk-discoveries in the valley of the Seine, with foot, en.vélo or in boat... this folder will be supplemented soon (June 2002) by topo-guides making it possible to go for freely various walks with foot in the valley of the Seine and the its affluents.

photographs © 'the Scheldt without Frontières'

The Seine

it is in
France!

the Seine
with sky
opened?



School works on the Seine



proclamation for ressusciter the Seine

Nearly invisible in the Pentagon, one can locate the Seine in Anderlecht, street Bollinckx, on a rather long section. Then street of the Veterinary surgeons, with the back of the service station. It also runs with sky open in *the Business To rivet Park* (access defended by grids).

Downstream, one locates it not far from the dechettery, street of Rupel.

And still where one leaves the avenue of Vilvorde to borrow it bridge of Buda.

Before reaching
the Area of Brussels-Capital...

The Seine traverses the Walloon Area which, in collaboration with the Inter-commune one of the Walloon Brabant (IBW) and the common crossings undertook the cleansing of the river while not engaging there less 125 000 000 €, the price to pay to safeguard the quality of water and, ultimately of the life!

Before-seine



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