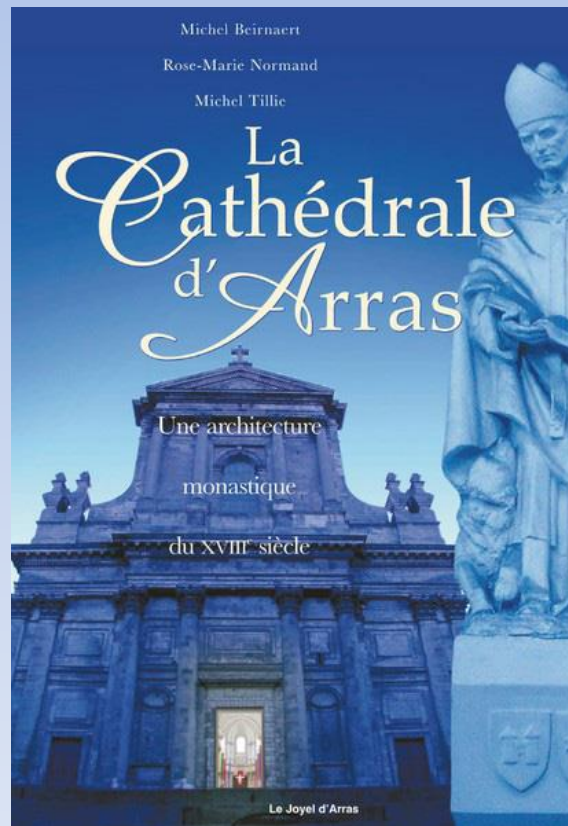


Why is it called the Saint-Vaast or Notre-Dame Cathedral?

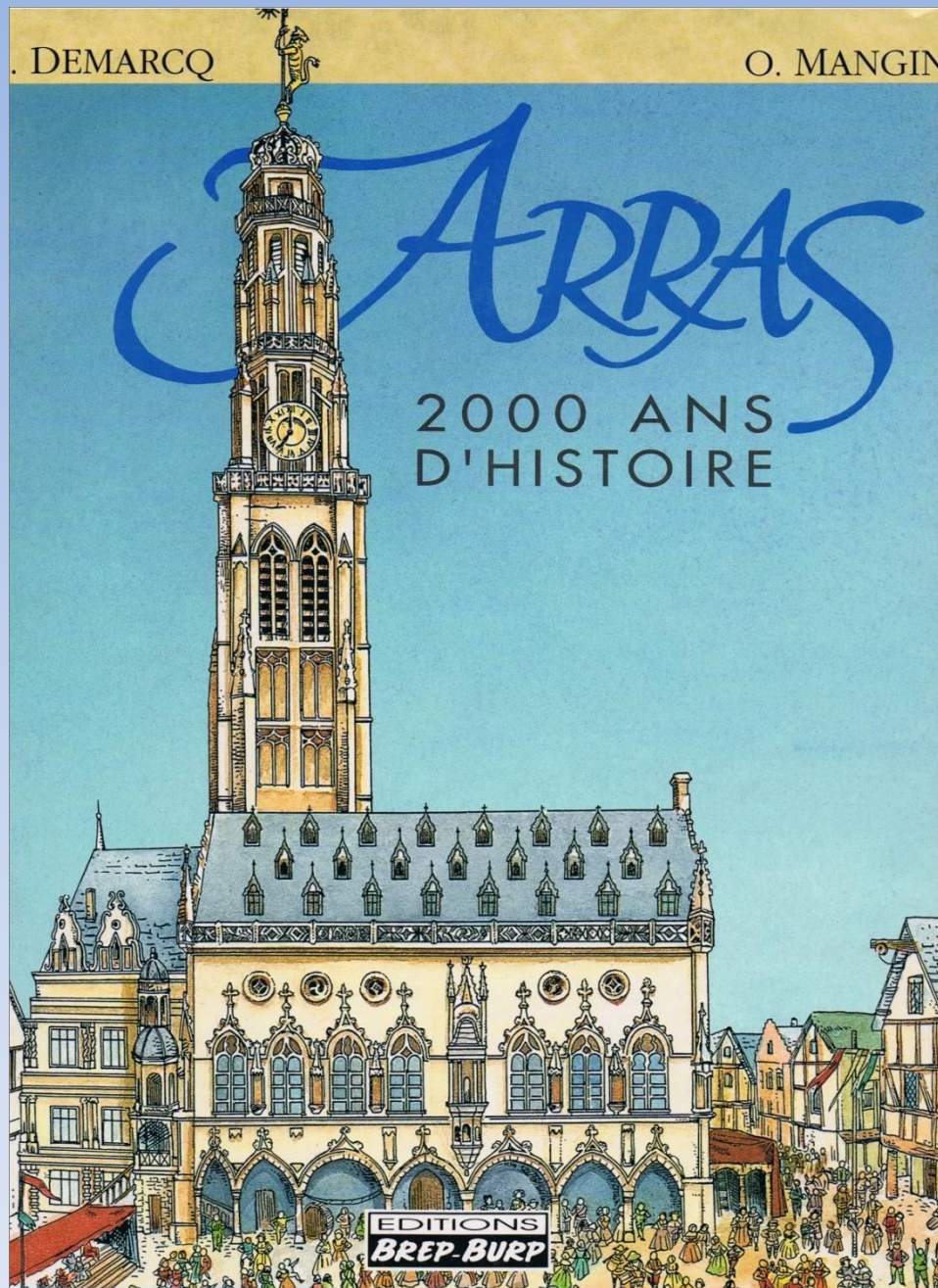


. DEMARCQ

O. MANGIN

ARRAS

2000 ANS
D'HISTOIRE



EDITIONS
BREP-BURP

COLLECTION HISTOIRES DE VILLES



Let's go back in time. We are now in the 5th century, in 486.



Clovis, king of the Franks, married to a Christian princess named Clotilde, won the victory of Tolbiac near the Rhine river.



‘God of Clotilde,
because you
made me
victorious, I am
going to get
baptized.’

As he was travelling through Toul, he met a monk named Vaast, who was recognized for his faith and charity. He was helping the diseased, teaching them how to read and to know the Gospel...



Bishop Remi asked Vaast to prepare Clovis for his baptism.

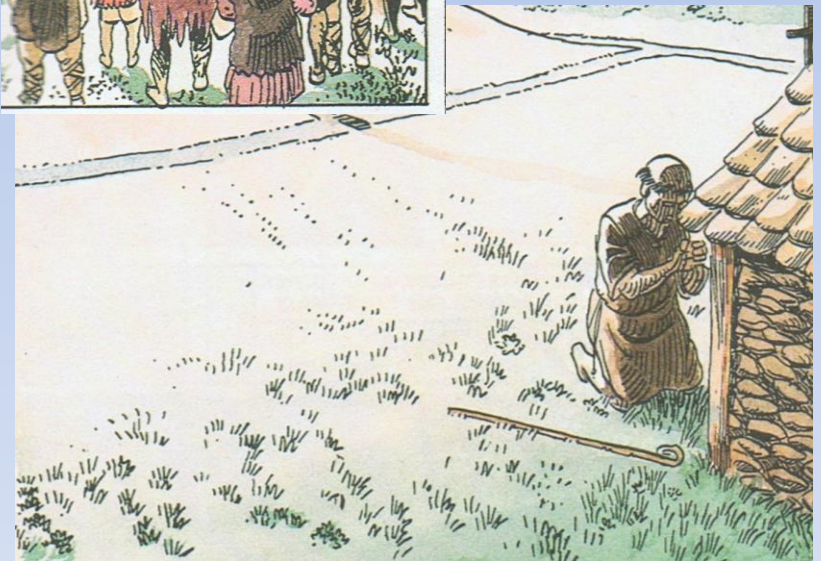


In 498, on Christmas Day, Bishop Remi baptized Clovis and the Franks in the Cathedral of Reims.

Soon after, Remi, Bishop of Reims, entrusted the diocese of Arras and diocese of Cambrai to St Vaast.



When he arrived, Vaast found the city of Arras in ruins...



Bishop Vaast, together with his apostles, restored the church. Every day, he came and prayed at the shrine built on the right banks of the Crinchon river, on the hill of La Madeleine.

For 40 years, he rebuilt churches, announced the gospel, and helped the poor.

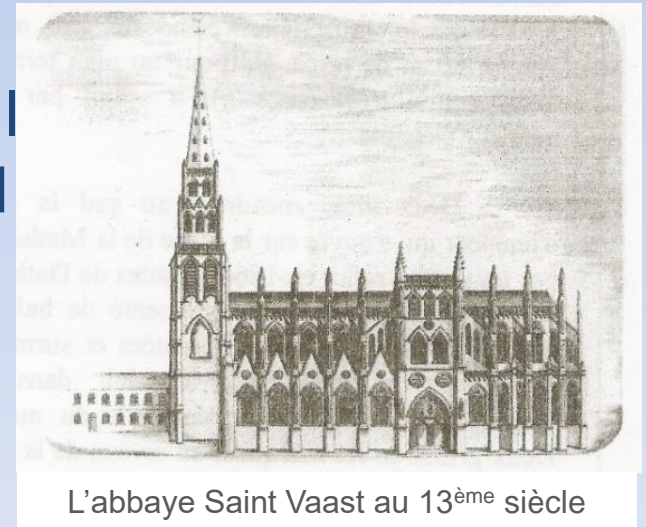




Reliquaire de Saint Vaast

Vaast probably died on 6 February 540. In 667, Aubert, who was the bishop of Arras, asked St Vaast's corpse to be carried to the chapel built above the Crinchon river.

A small community of monks, which will later adopt the rule of St Benoit, settled around this chapel and built a monastery: the Abbey of St Vaast.

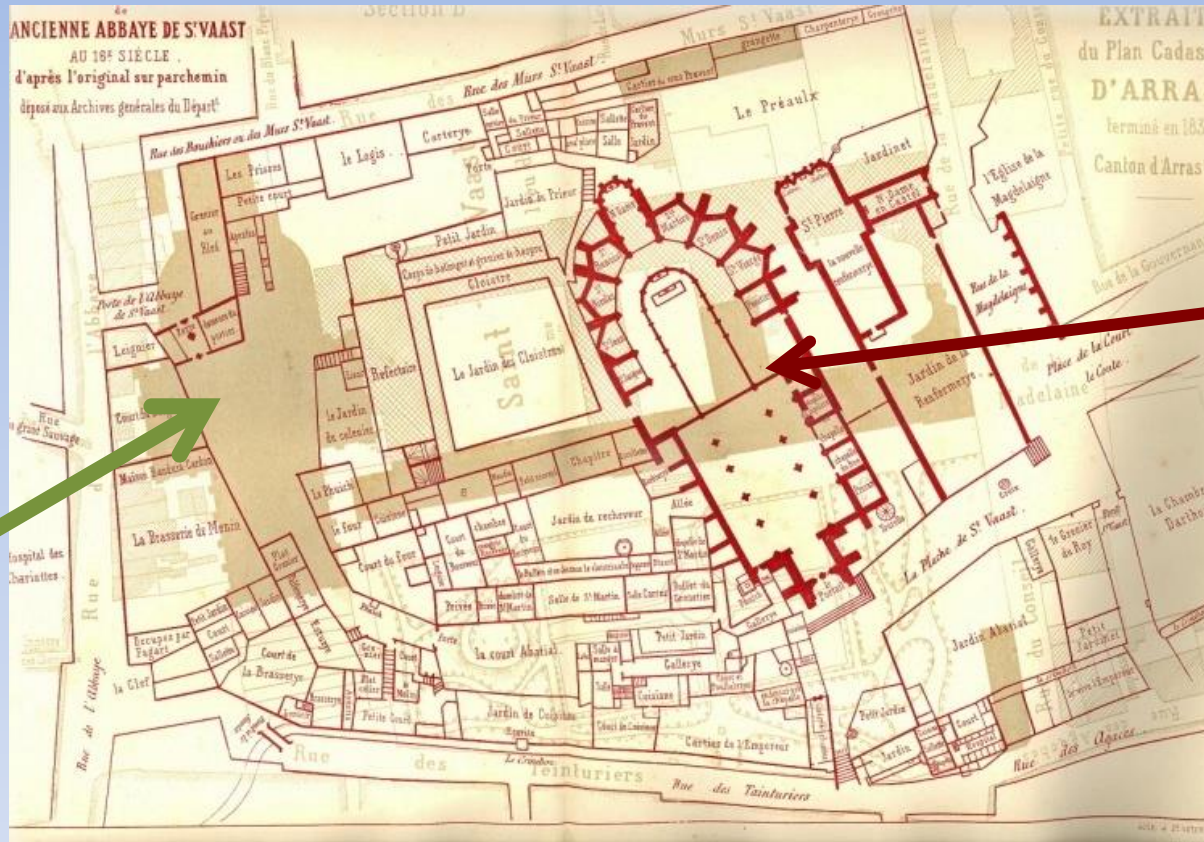


L'abbaye Saint Vaast au 13^{ème} siècle



In the Abbey Chapel, monks prayed, sang to the glory of God, invoked Mary, Mother of God.

Over time, the abbey expanded.



Before the French Revolution

After the French Revolution

In 1804, Napoleon I decided that the abbey church would become the Cathedral of Arras.

Ravaged by WWI, it is then rebuilt in the manner of the original.



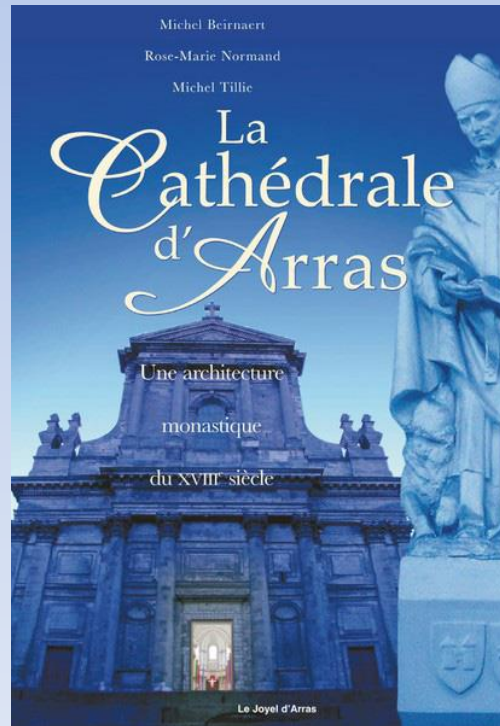
“St Vaast came here as a bearer of the Gospel, and he proclaimed it with courage and boldness.”

Monseigneur Jean-Paul Jaeger – Bishop of Arras, Boulogne, and St Omer.

*For I am not
ashamed of the
Gospel, because it
is the power of
God that brings
salvation to
everyone who
believes.
Rom 1:16*



If St Vaast had not come to Arras, this Cathedral would not exist!



St Vaast, Bishop of Arras (500-540).

The Patron Saint of the diocese. His feast is on 6 February.



73 churches in the diocese were named after him.

He is often represented with a bear (or a wolf).

In the 20th century, Bishop Gérard Huyghe proclaimed him the Patron of all the catechists of the diocese of Arras.

In the 1792, the monks were expelled from the Abbey, which was turned into a museum.



Nowadays, it also houses a media library and a few offices.

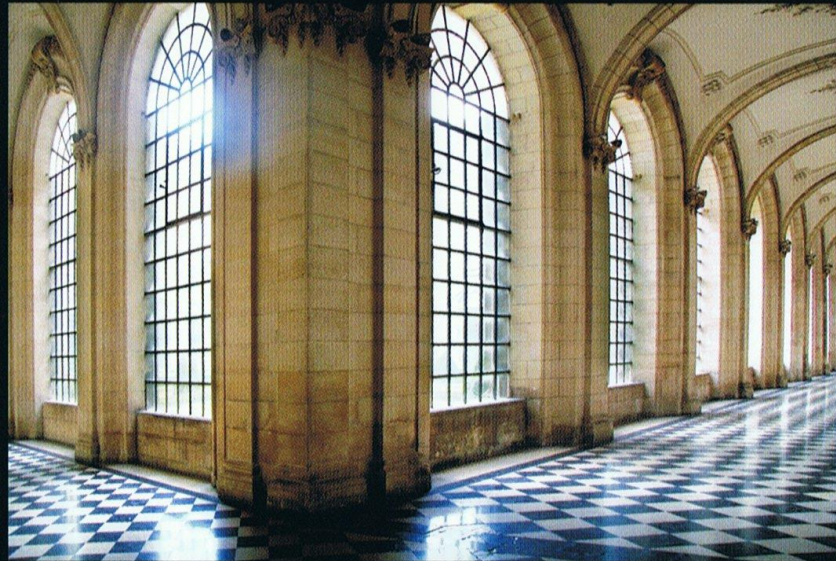
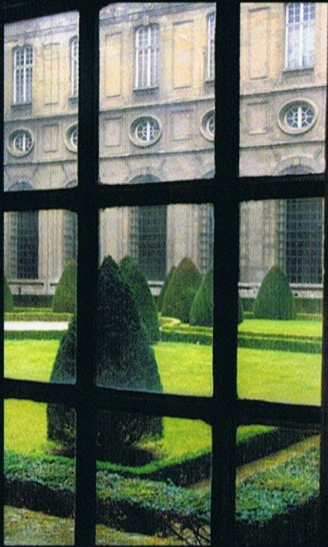


A cross Moline
in the Abbey of St Vaast



Entrance and inner courtyard
of the museum

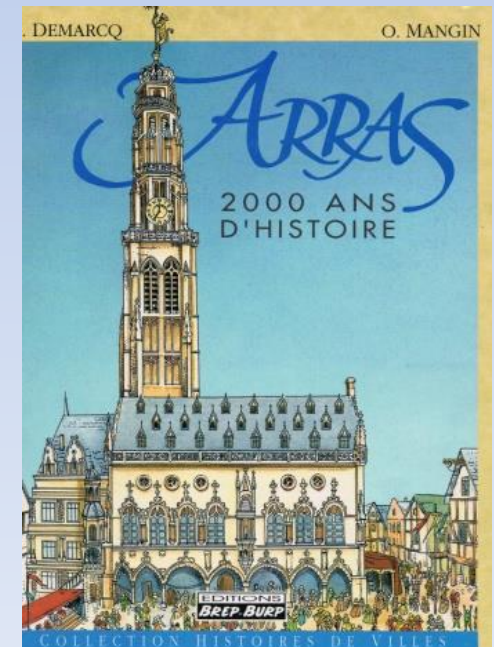
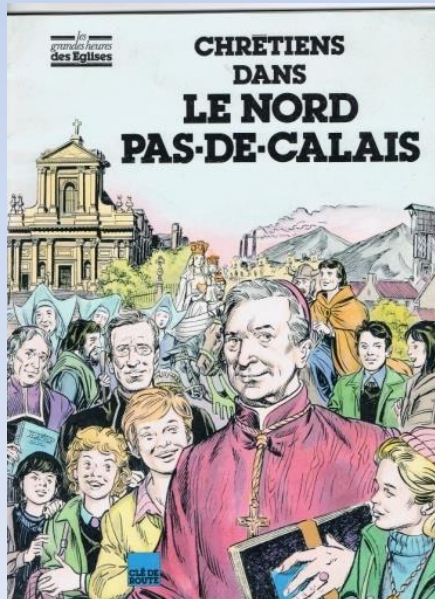
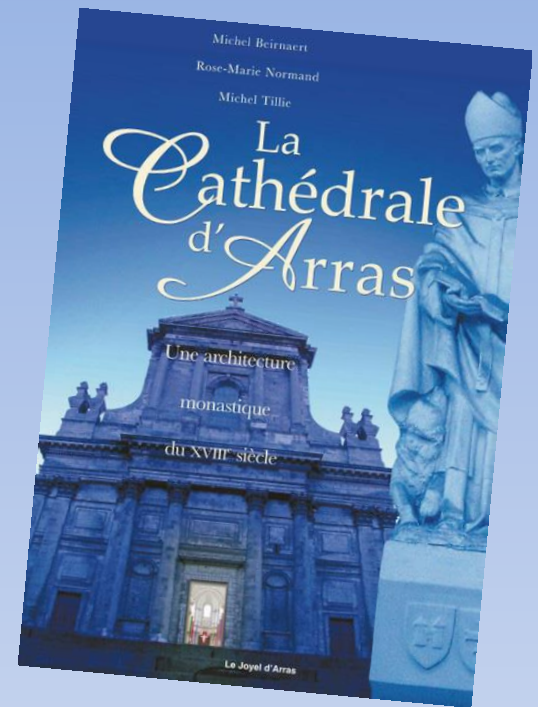
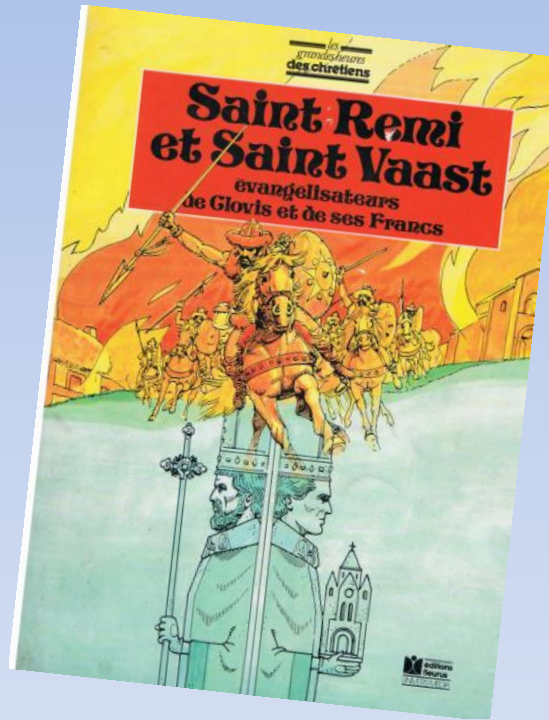
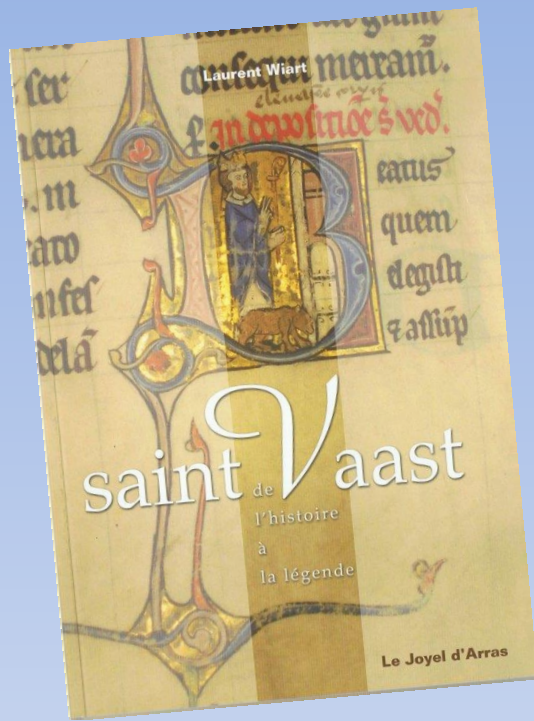




Arras • le cloître de l'abbaye Saint-Vaast

Arras – Cloisters of the Abbey of St Vaast

Sources



Music



Que niño tan bello
Chœur Exaudi de Cuba

Concept and design : ***Brigitte Cattean et Christine Robillard***
Technical support: ***Françoise Leconty***

Video version : ***Alicia Lieven***

Proofreading : ***Marie Lehy et Michel Tillie***

Photos : ***Jean Capelain et Michel Tillie***

le Joyel d'Arras
