

The Forney Library

Founded thanks to a donation to the City of Paris by an industrialist, Aimé-Samuel Forney, who wanted to put a new value on the situation of the crafts professions at the end of the 19th century, the library was inaugurated on the 27th of February of 1886, at 12, Titon street (11th Paris district), in the Faubourg Saint Antoine.

At first devoted to crafts and decorative arts, and frequented only by craftsmen (cabinet makers, ceramists, painters ...), it has enlarged its specialization to art, and thus diversified its public (art or architecture students, fashion, graphic arts or design professionals ...), especially since 1961, year of the installation in the Townhouse of Sens, in the heart of the Marais area.

Specialties

- Fine arts : painting, sculpture, architecture, drawing, engraving
- Decorative arts : ceramics, costume, interior decoration, design
- Graphic arts : arts of the book, poster and advertisement
- Applied arts : fashion, design, decoration ...
- Crafts arts : woodwork, ironwork, earthwork, glasswork, textile ...

Collections

- Books from the 18th century to nowadays
- Artists' books
- 4000 titles of periodicals
- Graphzines
- Commercial, exhibitions, museums and art sales catalogues
- Old and contemporary posters
- Wallpapers, printed fabrics, textile samples
- Advertising printed documents

Access

Hôtel de Sens /1, rue du Figuier Paris 4^e / Tél. 01 42 78 14 60

Métro Saint-Paul (line 1) or Pont-Marie (line 7)

Vélib' : 4010, St-Paul Pavée - 4009, Village St-Paul- 4011, place du bataillon français de l'ONU

SABF Forney Library's Friends Society

<http://www.sabf.fr/>

Opening of the Library

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: 13h-19h30/Wednesday, Thursday: 10h-19h30

Opening of the Gallery

From Tuesday to Saturday: 13h-19h

For any thorough research, appointments or group tours, please ask

bibliotheque.forney@paris.fr



MAIRIE DE PARIS



THE TOWNHOUSE OF SENS

october 2017

 PARIS | BIBLIOTHÈQUES

Vestige of the Parisian medieval civil architecture, the Townhouse of the Archbishops of Sens was built from 1475 by **Tristan of Salazar**. As a private councillor of the kings of France, his duties frequently called him to Paris, which was then a simple bishopric. He had the old preexisting mansion demolished and replaced by a brand new one. When he dies 87 years old in 1519, the construction was hardly completed.

The new building calls to mind a medieval fortress with its three watchtowers overlooking the neighbouring streets. The tower staircase like a true military dungeon completes this appearance. But the elegant gothic porch, the entrance vault with its complicated arcatures, the high windows adorned with blazons point out a fastuous Renaissance mansion.

Tristan of Salazar's successors did not reside at the townhouse. This abandonment turned out to be a potential benefit, for had the archbishops really lived in it, the old medieval building would have been probably renovated according to the taste of the day. In 1622, Paris became an archbishopric. Consequently, the Townhouse of Sens was let to some noblemen and then to different private persons and manufacturers.



In 1689, the holders of the Messageries, coaches and carriages from Lyon, Burgundy and Franche-Comté rent some parts of the building, until they move out in 1743, leaving the house fallen into decay.

In 1790, sold as a national property, it has been transformed all along the 19th century by its different owners : a carrying company, a laundry, a manufacture of food cans, a rabbit's hair cutter, an optician, the **St James Marmelade** manufacture (1864-1886) and finally a glass warehouse, had covered the whole courtyard with a glass canopy. These trades were established on the ground level and in the large apartment above the porch. The rest of the building was occupied by poorly furnished rooms where craftsmen, workers and all kinds of artists were mixing together.

At last in **1911**, after long dealings, the extremely ruined building was bought by **the City of Paris**. Classified as a Historic Monument in 1912, the last tenants were evacuated in 1928. One year later, the transfer of the Forney library into the townhouse of Sens is decided. The renovation begun in the 1930s would not be completed before the middle of the 1950s. Finally, the Forney Library officially moves into it on the 7th of April of 1961.

Michel of Nostredame - said Nostradamus - (apothecary, astrologer, marmelade maker ...) was invited to Paris in 1555 by Queen Catherine of Medicis. Lodged at the Townhouse of Sens, it is said that he lived there so well that he had an attack of gout, and was obliged to stay in his bed, around which, as the story goes, the whole court crowded, anxious to hear his predictions.

King Henri the IVth also welcomed in the townhouse of Sens also his ex-wife Marguerite of Valois. « Queen Margot » will live there less than a year: one of her lovers, Julien Date, is murdered by a jealous rival, Vermont, just in front of the main door. The culprit had his head cut off (or was beheaded) in presence of the queen, who left soon after the Figuier street (named after a fig tree that she had cut down to facilitate the way of her carriages).



The cannonball of the Townhouse of Sens: on the 28th of July 1830, during the « July Revolution » and the blowing up of the Ave Maria street barracks, a lost cannonball was driven into the building's façade. One may still see it on the façade, with the inscription engraved underneath : 28 juillet 1830.

In 1841, the painter **Alexander Schanne** who inspired the type of Schaunard, one of the characters of the **Scenes from Bohemian Life** by **Henri Murger**, took his lodgings in the highest tower and declares in his memoirs that « **stepping up these stairs excites [his] imagination** ».