

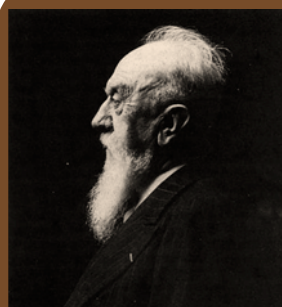
« Collectors of ideas » route



The [Maison Losseau](#) and the [Mundaneum](#), two buildings exemplary of Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture, share much more than geographic proximity in the Rue de Nimy in Mons. They both remind us of a shared history and common values, those of **Paul Otlet** and

Léon Losseau. These educated bourgeois who lived at the turn of the 20th century had both studied law, were both passionate about books and bibliography and both assigned themselves to the same mission: sharing with future generations, participating in the progress of humanity, spreading knowledge.

Paul Otlet reached this goal by creating the Universal Decimal Classification with Henri La Fontaine, to which Léon Losseau collaborated and which he applied to his many collections. A rich correspondence highlights the relationship between the two, further proven by the lecture given by Otlet in Mons at Losseau's invitation. The latter will also become director of the International Institute of Bibliography, the future Mundaneum, after the deaths of Otlet and La Fontaine.



Léon Losseau

Member of the International Institute for Bibliography (IIB) from its creation in 1895 by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, Léon Losseau developed Class 34 of the Universal Decimal Classification, that devoted to Law. Léon Losseau then went on to become director of the IIB after the Second World War and the death of its founders.

Today, the Mundaneum is an archive centre and an exhibition space located in Mons since

Paul Otlet

Paul Otlet and Léon Losseau collaborated on numerous projects concerning bibliography and the Universal Decimal Classification. The Mundaneum now preserves numerous letters exchanged by the two. When Paul Otlet gave a conference in Mons in 1898 for the « Cercle des Bibliophiles de Belgique », of which Léon Losseau was a member, what better place to welcome him than... the Maison Losseau !



1993, while the Maison Losseau (recently restored under the auspices of the Province of Hainaut and accessible to the public) hosts an interpretation centre and a centre for Hainaut literature. The teams of both institutions collaborate regularly as part of their scientific development and offer visitors joint cultural activities. A combined ticket now invites you to discover the shared destinies of Otlet and Losseau: two humanists; two idealists; two **"Collectors of ideas."**

« Collectors of ideas », a partnership

« Collectors of ideas » builds upon the common history of the founders both touristically and scientifically. This partnership already allows the of a common program of inventories, publications, exhibitions (including « Léon Losseau, a photographer » from the 12th of May at the Maison Losseau), conferences, ...

The « Collectors of ideas » route will be officially launched on **the 3rd of May 2016**.

- ◆ Guided tour of both sites at **13.30**, given especially for the winner of a Facebook contest (to be followed on the fanpages).
- ◆ Exceptional evening taking place on both sites from **18.00** with
 - The preview of the TV documentary « **Quartiers d'Histoire** » (TéléMB) at the Mundaneum
 - A conference bringing together **Françoise Delmez**, Director of the Maison Losseau, and **Raphaële Cornille**, Head of iconographic collections at the Mundaneum
 - A short guided tour of the **Maison Losseau** followed by a drink

To take part in any of those events, please confirm your presence by contacting 065/39.54.95 or emilie.thiry@mundaneum.be

Press contact

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