



**DISCOVER THE  
MASTERPIECES OF THE  
ROYAL MUSEUM OF THE  
ARMED FORCES AND  
MILITARY HISTORY**

Adult trail

**1**

## Philip II's tournament armour

This 90-pound armour made in the German town of Landshut probably belonged to Philip II, Charles V's son. Philip reigned over Spain, Italy and the Netherlands at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As the left-hand side of a tournament armour was largely exposed during jousts it was re-enforced. The tournament lance, up to five meters long, was balanced on a bracket on the right-hand breastplate when the knight stormed his opponent.

**2**

## Serpent

A serpent is a wooden wind instrument owing its name to its snake-like shape. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it mainly accompanied Gregorian church choirs. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards it was also used to set rhythm in military music. Because of its coiled shape the serpent was difficult to handle during parades and it was therefore replaced by a more compact eight-shape, as is shown here. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the instrument lost its appeal, as its deep and unbalanced tones were no longer fashionable.

**3**

## Double portrait Leopold I / Louise-Marie

Today, this double portrait representing King Leopold I and Queen Louise-Marie would be called a gadget. In the first years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century such portraits were immensely popular. According to the viewing angle a different representation appears. From the left, one sees the king, whereas his wife becomes visible from the right. This specific item is a lithograph. It was printed by the Brussels printer Daems, probably for Leopold's wedding to Louise-Marie in 1832.

**4**

## Mexican portraits by photographer Aubert

Between 1865 and 1867 Frenchman François Aubert resided in Mexico as Emperor Maximilian's officious court photographer. He took pictures of the Emperor, of the Belgian military corps protecting his wife Charlotte, King Leopold I's daughter, and of Maximilian's opponents. Aubert also witnessed the Emperor's execution. He was not allowed to take pictures, but he was the only one to draw the event. The Museum also safeguards the glass negatives of these unique pictures.

5

## Uniforms of the Imperial Guard Cossacks, worn by the Russian tsars

Between 1845 and 1917 these four tunics were worn by the Russian tsars Nicolas I, Alexander II, Alexander III, as well as by Aleksej, the son of the last tsar Nicolas II. As many other sovereigns the tsars used to wear the colonel-general uniform of different regiments for special occasions. The red tunics of the Imperial Guard Cossacks were favoured. Nicolas I was even buried in it. That is why only his blue uniform coat is on display here.

6

## Ensemble of stir drums from WWI

These magnificent stir drums belonging to English and Canadian battalions are enhanced with the units' coats of arms. Most of them also bear the names of the battles the battalions participated in, except for the units constituted on the outbreak of the First World War and who therefore did not have a previous history. The Belgian-British couple Bouvier-Washer presented the Military Museum with this unique collection as a tribute to their son, who was killed at Dixmude in 1916.



7

## Mark IV tank

The Mark IV is a British tank developed in 1917. Its prototype, the Mark I, made its maiden trip in France at the end of 1916. However, the new offensive weapon did not play a decisive part. Its large-scale use came too late in the war to make a difference. The engine often broke down; the tank was too slow and too heavy. Worldwide, few examples have survived. Moreover, our Mark IV is the only one to still have its original camouflage.

8

## Battaille triplane

Belgian aviation was scarcely out of the egg when César Battaille, the son of a Belgian industrialist, built this experimental triplane in 1911. Its unique

cantilevered wings are meant to control speed and to ensure a kiss landing.

The plane was crated when the First World War broke out, only to reappear in a factory in 1972. Since 2003, after a painstaking restoration, the triplane enjoys a new lease of life.





## Schreck waterplane

This Schreck waterplane was designed in 1915. The Belgian squadron in Calais counted five such planes. They were used for surveillance or protection missions over the Channel and to locate enemy submarines. In July 1918 King Albert and Queen Elisabeth were flown across the Channel in order to celebrate King George V's jubilee. This was the first time royalty boarded an aircraft.



## Junkers 52

The German Junkers 52 appeared on the scene in 1932. Its corrugated cladding is quite striking. It could transport some 17 passengers and was ordered by most commercial airlines, amongst which Sabena. As it was able to land at very low speed, it was suited to short and rudimentary landing strips. The Junkers 52 is best known for its use during the Second World War, when the Luftwaffe intensively operated it for troop transport.

