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A bit of history of this building starting in 2011 to its very beginning... Part 4

... De Brabantzonen

The theatre society De Brabantzonen was founded in 1871. Its objective: Flemish dramatic art. Its annually organizes two public representations, with plays performed by the society members and selected within the repertoire of authors like Félix Vande Sande, Nestor De Tière ou Alexandre Dandois. The theater society De Brabantzonen has encountered many successes and won prizes in different contests in the theatre area: Brussels in 1872, Oostende in 1877, Antwerp in 1882 and Maastricht in 1895. It has also participated to several charities like the one organized in 1896 for the profit of the newly opened Hospice Jourdan, that would be officially inaugurated the next year. In 1898, it counts a hundred members – which is at that time the largest society in Koekelberg – and applies for the name of « Royal Society ». The Royal Society De Brabantzonen will actively participate the success of several tournaments of the Landjuweel that has become the most important theatre contest of Flemish amateurs. Its tradition, dating back to the ancient guilds and brotherhoods, then later of the Rhetoric Chambers who used to organize writing and poetry tournaments, was revived in 1922 under the impulse of the Flemish writer Herman Teirlinck, born in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean in 1879. The Landjuweel cup was awarded after a contest among the different societies. In 1936, the eleventh Landjuweel cup was won by the society De Morgenster of Malines and in 1937, the twelfth award went to the Brabantzonen of Koekelberg who gave L'Idiot by Dostoïevski. In 1938, the same Brabantzonen will organise the thirteenth Landjuweel that will be won by the Sint-Augustinuskring of Antwerp for their performance in Les Loups by Romain Rolland. The award ceremony took place at the Town Hall on Sunday June 19th in 1938. In addition to the Landjuweel and four other prizes, two special awards will be given to them: the “best speech production” with a silver-gilt medal offered by Burgomaster Oscar Bossaert, and the price of the “best direction” awarded by the Échevin de l'Instruction publique Arthur Pladet.

On Saturday January 14th 1933, the dramatic circle of the Victoria biscuit and chocolate factory organises at the Het Prinsenhof Café, a charity in aid of the Koekelberg Solidarity Committee. This will be repeated in 1934 in aid of “Les Petits lits bleus” (the small blue beds) of Koekelberg. A benefit of 2 512 francs will be produced. The charity “Les Petits lits bleus » aims at helping young mothers in the need and is run by Germaine Bossaert-Van Beneden, Oscar Bossaert's wife. ...



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