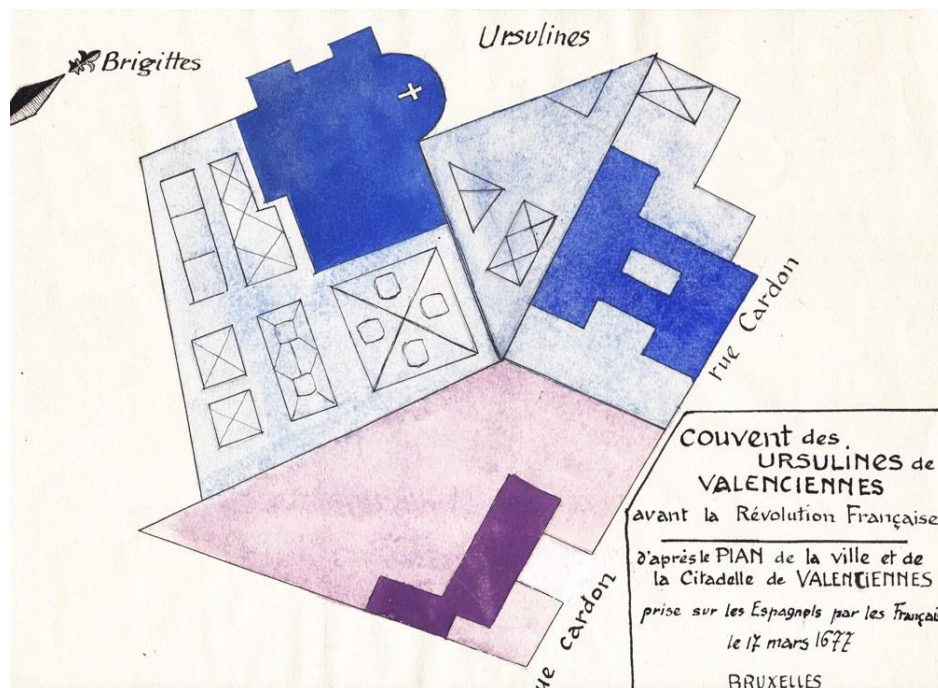


3- THE URSULINES OF VALENCIENNES

In 1654 at the request of the ladies d'Oultreman (sisters of two Jesuits), who wanted to open a school for educating young girls, 7 Ursulines (5 from Mons and 2 from Namur) founded the community of Ursulines in Valenciennes. They settled down in the Lalaing Hotel, Cardon Street (actually, Quesnoy Street). The school welcomed boarders and day students, offering them important lessons free of charge (reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, catechism).



During Sunday School they formed servants and workers, especially girls employed in mechanical works, (weaving, lace-making), and women for helping the poor.



CONVENT of the URSULINES of VALENCIENNES
before the French Revolution .

MAP of the town and of the Citadel of VALENCIENNES: taken from Spain by the French troops on
March 17, 1677.
Brussels

In 1656 the French troops besieged Valenciennes, then part of the Spanish Netherlands. From the 30th of June to the 15th of July, from the slopes of the Rôleur hill, the French bombarded the town, especially the district of the Gate of Mons. (Many persons were killed or wounded, and many buildings destroyed). The Convent was spared, and the school opened up again (with more than 500 pupils and boarders). In 1676, a new war began: Louis XIV moved forward in Flanders and on March 17, 1677, took over Valenciennes. Valenciennes then became French in 1678.



Van Der Meulen ; Capture of Valenciennes by Louis XIV.

During their General Assembly on February 27, the FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM launched a campaign asking sponsors to participate during 60 days with the society DARTAGNANS, in view of restoring the painting, "Martyrdom of Saint Ursula".

Connexion with the web site :
<https://dartagnans.fr/fr/projects/restauration>.