



ON THE TRAIL OF BARTHOLDI PRESS KIT

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Bartholdi

Colmar, 2nd August 1834 – Paris, 4th October 1904

Frédérique Auguste Bartholdi, son of Jean-Charles Bartholdi counsellor of the prefecture and Augusta-Charlotte, daughter of a mayor of Ribeauvillé, is the most celebrated artist in Alsace. Until the premature death of his father, Bartholdy is two years old, he lives in the Rue des Marchands, 30 in Colmar. His wealthy mother decides to live from now in Paris while keeping the house in Colmar which is used as Bartholdi museum since 1922.

From 1843 to 1851 Bartholdi goes to Louis-Le-Grand school and takes art lessons of painting with Ary Scheffer. He continues his studies at the art academie (École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts), profession architecture, and takes underwriting lessons with M. Rossbach in Colmar, where his family spends holiday.

In 1852 Barholdi opens his first studio in Paris. At the age of 19, in 1853, he gets the first order coming from his birth town – they ask him to build a statue of the General Rapp.

In 1856, he traveled in the Middle East, Egypt and Yemen which will mark his artistic and technical course. Of this trip, he brought back sketches, drawing, photography and especially the confirmation of his passions, the statues.

In 1856 the artist hears for the first time about a present France would offer to the United States of America on the occasion of their centenarian indepenence – a present whose creator he should become.

When the planning for the building of the Panama Canal begins around 1867, he creates the model of a giant lighthouse inspired by egypt buildings that should be placed at the entry of the canal. This project should never be realized but finally it gives the idea for the Statue of Libery (p. 3) which is placed at the entrance of the harbour of New York on Bedloe island in 1886.

In 1904 Bartholdi dies on october 4th in Paris in suite to a tuberculosis. His widow bequeath to the city of Colmar his house, Rue des Marchands, designs, drawings, models and other reminders in 1907. All theses are exposed in a civic museum since 1922.

Bartholdi is the creator of 35 monuments spread all over the world. Its notoriety will probably paradoxically been overshadowed due of the influence of his masterpiece, the Statue of Liberty work.



Bartholdi

- 1834 – Birth of Bartholdi in Colmar
- 1836 – Precipitate death of his father, removal to Paris
- 1843/1851 – Painting lessons with Ary Scheffer and M. Rossbach
- 1852 – University-entrance diploma at the secondary school Louis-le-Grand and opening of his first studio in Paris
- 1853 – First order: Creation of a statue of the General Rapp for the city of Colmar
- 1855 – First journey to Egypt
- 1857 – Winner of a competition of the city of Bordeaux (placement of the statue in Lyon)
- 1863 – Finishing of the Martin Schongauer fountain
- 1864 – Inauguration of the fountain dedicated to Admiral Bruat
- 1865 – First consideration about a present from France to the United States of America to celebrate the hundred years of independence
- 1867 – Construction of a model of the huge lighthouse for the mouth of the Panama Canal
- 1868 – Revelation of the statue of the General Arrighi de Casanova of Corte
- 1869 – Second journey to Egypt
- 1870 – Model of the Vercingétorix Monument for the city of Clermont-Ferrand
- 1870 – First famous work: The Statue of Liberty
- 1871 – Departure to the United States of America
- 1872 – Preparation of a statue Lafayette for the French community in the United States
- 1873 – Inauguration of the statue Vauban in Avallon
- 1874 – Conceptual design of the low-relief for the unitary church in Boston
- 1875 – Start of the building of the Statue of Liberty
- 1875 – Bartholdi joins the “patriotic” Masonic Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris
- 1876 – Presentation of the hand and the torch of the Statue of Liberty at the World Exposition in Philadelphia
- 1878 – Presentation of the head of the Statue of Liberty at the World Exposition in Paris
- 1879 – Monument of Gribeauval in Paris



Bartholdi

- 1880 – Bartholdi finishes the Lion de Belfort (Lyon of Belfort)
- 1882 – Inauguration of the statue of Rouget de Lisle in Lons-le Saunier
- 1884 – Inauguration of the statue of Diderot in Langres
- 1884 – Official handing over of the Statue of Liberty from France to the United States of America
- 1886 – October 28th: Official inauguration of the Statue of Liberty in New York
- 1866 – Bartholdi ascends towards the grade of “Commandeur de la Légion d’honneur”, 22 years after being dubbed to knight
- 1888 – Roesselmann Monument in Colmar
- 1890 – Hirn Monument in Colmar
- 1891 – Gambetta Monument in Sèvres
- 1892 – Fountain at the Place des Terreaux in Lyon
- 1892/1895 – Realization of the statues “Lafayette” and “Washington” (Paris)
- 1892/1895 – Sculpture “La Suisse secourant Strasbourg” (anal.: Swiss helping France)
- 1892/1895 – Statue of Christopher Columbus for the World Exposition in Chicago
- 1898 – Schwendi fountain in Colmar
- 1902 – Monument for the aeronauts of the war from 1870 to 1871, Place des Ternes, Paris
- 1902 – Les grands soutiens du Monde (The supporters of the world) and Tonnelier (The barrel-maker) in Colmar
- 1903 – Inauguration of the Monument Vercingétorix in Clermont-Ferrand
- 1904 – 4 October: Death after tuberculosis (70 years old), funeral at the cemetery Montparnasse
- 1907 – His widow bequeath the city of Colmar the house, designs, models and other reminders
- 1912 – Posthumous inauguration of the monument “Trois Sièges” in Belfort
- 1922 – Inauguration of the Museum Bartholdi in Colmar



Masterpieces

Statue of Liberty

As a gift on the occasion of the centenarian independency from France to the United States of America and as a sign of friendship, today the Statue of Liberty has become symbol of the United States, universal symbol of freedom and famous all over the world. From the idea to the inauguration of the Statue more than 20 years passed by, during 20 years famous French architects like Viollet-le-Duc or Eiffel participated in this project. Since 1984 it is named UNESO-World Cultural Heritage and it exists in a large number of copies. In France, no less than 25 aftershocks, the youngest is located in Colmar, inaugurated in 2004 for the centenary of the death of Bartholdi. All over the world the work of Bartholdi is presented in Spain, Japan, China, Brazil, Germany, the USA in Las Vegas...

Did you know?

The term « gadget » arises from the transformation of the name of Mr. Gaget who invented the production and sale of midget Statues of Liberty.



Oeuvres majeurs

The “Lion de Belfort”

The high relief statue based on the fortress represents a lying, hurt, but ready to fight lion on a pedestal. The creation symbolizes the heroic 103-day-resistance of Belfort, led by the colonel Denfert-Rochereau to the leaguer of the city by the Prussian army. During this time the area today called “Territoire de Belfort” was the only part of the Alsace that was still French. The project has been initialized the 5 December 1871 and begun with the laying of the foundation stone in 1879. A length of 22 meters and 11 meters high, the lion made of red sandstone is still guarding the city of Belfort.

The Terreaux fountain

In April 1857, the city of Bordeaux decides to build a fountain for the place of Quinconces. The winner of a declared competition is Bartholdi who presents an artwork which is inspired by the Apollon basin of the artist Tuby in Versailles. Unfortunately the Councilor of Bordeaux refuses the concept. After been showed at the World Exposition in Paris in 1889, the mayor of Lyon decides to buy the fountain to make it installed at the place of Terraux in Lyon in 1892. Artwork is carried out with a woman and a child on a chariot drawn by four sea horses representing France (Marianne) and four French rivers.





Bartholdi Museum

On 25 June 1907, the widow of Bartholdi submits the house in the Rue des Marchands, 30 to the city of Colmar. The city is charged to rebuild the old house from the XVIII. century to a museum in which furniture, sculptures, drafts and other models, drawings, engravings, art objects, the library and other memories of the artist's house in Paris, Rue d'Assas, 82 could be exposed.

On 12th October 1914, Jeanne Bartholdi dies, on 18 November 1922 the city of Colmar inaugurates the new museum. Since the following day publicly available, it resides in three floors in the northern and western wing of the house. The museum receives quickly pieces of sculptures, busts, models and historic statues that have been exposed in the Unterlinden museum before. A series of pictures bears testimony to the furniture of the halls of the permanent exhibitions that shall show the opulent live of the artist in his house in Paris. The huge hall in the ground floor, called model hall ("salle des maquettes"), has been dedicated to the presentation of countless models, statues (clay, cement and other materials) that are all in good order and coming from the valuable inventory of the sculptors' studio.

The increasing disinterest for the art of the 19th century leads the museum to use the model hall ("salle des maquettes") for changing exhibitions of local contemporary artists and benefits from the storage of a large number of works of Bartholdi which can't be made without any damage or loss. Temporarily closed during some years, the museum re-opens its doors in 1979. Since this day the museum is constantly fixed up, the permanent expositions expand and works are restored or new ones are bought. Beyond that there are thematic expositions that are dedicated to the preservation of the collections and the name Bartholdi.



Colmarien artworks

The great supporters of the world

Presented for the first time at the World Exposition in Paris in 1902, this group of bronze statues represents allegories of Justice, Patriotism and Work which are carrying together the earth globe. In 1909 this statue has been installed at the atrium of the family's residence which today is better known as Bartholdi museum.

Martin Schongauer fountain

A fountain with four sprig bowls and four figures that represent the goldsmith's art, the engraver's art, the studies and the modern painting, created in 1860, soars over the sandstone statue of Martin Schongauer (Colmar around 1450 – Breisach 1491), famous painter of the retable called 'Madonna in a rose hedge' (Dominican church in Colmar). Because of a problem with the water supply the fountain, situated in the court of the cloister of the Unterlinden museum, didn't work for more than fifty years. In 1958 the fountain has been uninstalled and his figures were stored in the museum Bartholdi. The orphaned leftovers, temporarily used as rising tank at the exhibition halls of Colmar, found a worthier place in front of the Saint Joseph church today. The figures of the fountain, hidden for a long time in the civic garages, welcome the visitors of the Unterlinden museum since 1991.



Colmarien artworks

Schwendi fountain

In 1989 placed on the place of the old tax house, the original fountain has been destroyed in 1940 and re-placed by the today's basin after the war. In this basin you can find the bronze statue of Lazare de Schwendi (1522 – 1583), commander of the imperial army in Hungary, to whom we due the grape variety Tokay which the statue is panning. As pay for his success Schwendi got the seignior of the Hohlandsberg with the Kientzheim castle.

Bruat fountain

The Bruat fountain has been inaugurated in 1864. It shows the bronze statue of Admiral France Armand Joseph Bruat (Colmar 1796 – on sea 1855) and four figures made of red sandstone which represent Africa, Oceania, Asia and America. The figures have been destroyed by the Nazis in 1940 but restored afterwards and declared "Historical Monument" in 1946. The ensemble of all statues has been placed in a modern and ornamented basin in 1958. The new figures still remember the continental figures of the original work whereof you can't find anything but the heads, which are exposed in the Bartholdi museum, today.





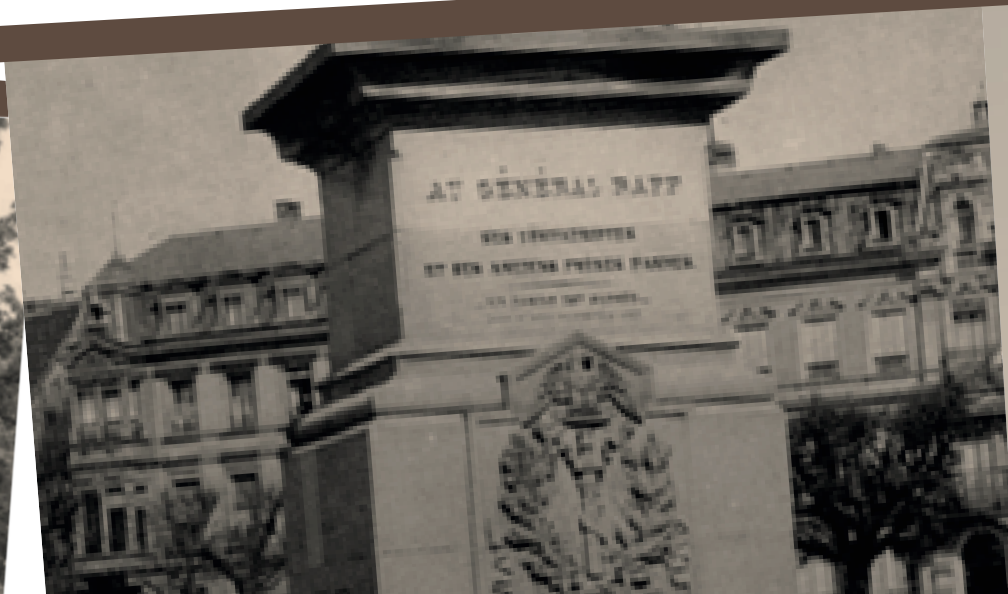
Colmarien artworks

Roesselmann fountain

Inaugurated in 1888, this fountain is overtopped by a bronze statue of Provost Jean Roesselmann who died while trying to defend the independence of Colmar against the followers of the Bishop of Strasbourg in 1262. The face of the statue bears the features of the mayor Hercule de Peyerimhoff, who was forced to resign from office a few years after the annexation in 1871 under pressure from German authorities.

Statue of General Rapp

Realized in 1854, when the artist wasn't older than twenty years, and inaugurated in 1856, the thundering bronze statue of the imperial General Jean Rapp (Colmar 1771 - Rheinweiler 1821) is the first of all public monuments of Bartholdi. Some month after the inauguration the statue has been showed at the Champs Elysée in Paris for the World Exposition. The creation has been destroyed by the occupants in 1940, but some Colmarien citizens saved it against fused lead baths of the Third Reich. So afterwards it could be renovated and is declared a "Historical Monument" since 1945. Since 1948 it is placed on its original foots.





Colmarien artworks

Monument Hirn

The physician, mathematician, astronomic and philosopher Gustave Adolphe Hirn (Wintzenheim 1815 - Col-mar 1890) is the innovator of essential industrial machines. Made in 1894, the bronze statue shows very true-to-life the member of the Institute sitting on his chair.

Bust of Jean Daniel Hanbart

Born in 1803, Jean Daniel Hanbart was the son of a Protestant family whom was the luck on their side because of active iron commerce. The confirmed bachelor has a retired, spartan and not excessive life that turned him to a millionaire. After his death in 1857 he disposed of 300 000 Francs gold by will to his church community. To pay tribute to this generous donator the Protestant consistory ordered a marble bust from the young sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi. He had a good relation with the deceased and offered his services for free. Today, the bust is placed in the Saint Matthieu Church in Colmar.





Colmarien artworks

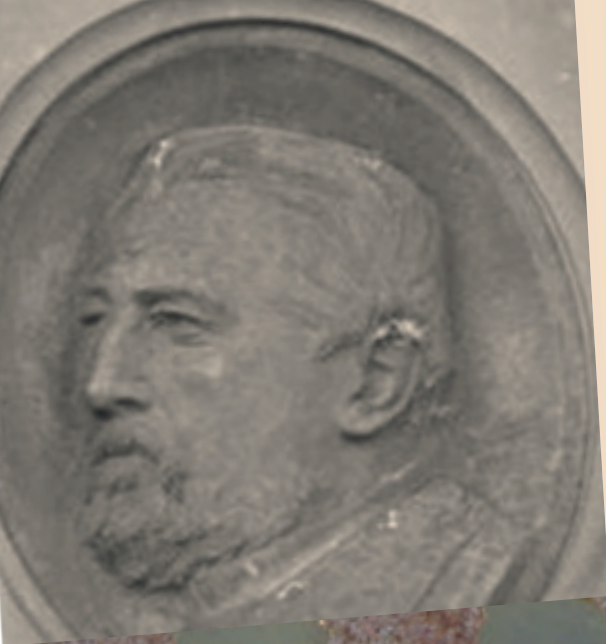
Le Petit vigneron (The little winegrower)

Bartholdi created this oeuvre as homage to the wine region whose development he witnessed. In 1869 the statue has been set up as an alcove basin at the south-west wing of the covered market (french: marché couvert). The original statue has been placed in the Bartholdi museum in 1986 and is, since that day, replaced by an identical copy at its original place. On the occasion of the town twinning from Colmar and Princeton, USA, another copy has been created and handed out.

Le tonnelier (The barrel-maker)

The statue, placed in 1902 on the top of the gable of the House of heads ("Maison des Têtes"), situated in the street of the same name, was a commissioned work for the wine wallet of Colmar, which drew in this famous house from the Renaissance in 1898.





Colmarien artworks

Le génie funèbre (The grave ghost)

It was for the father of Georges Nefftzer, who died at the age of 17 years, that Bartholdi created the "Génie funèbre" in 1866. Originally, this work has been exposed at the Montmartre cemetery in Paris at the grave of the young George. Later on the heirs of the illustrious Nefftzer contributed the statue to the Bartholdi secondary school where the father of the deceased went to school himself.

The grave of Kern

Another oeuvre of the artist is the tomb of the Kern family which is situated on the civic cemetery of Colmar, rue du Ladhof. The tomb itself has been created by the Colmarien architect Albert Hatz, but Bartholdi added a locket with the head of Georges Kern in 1899.

The grave of Voulminot

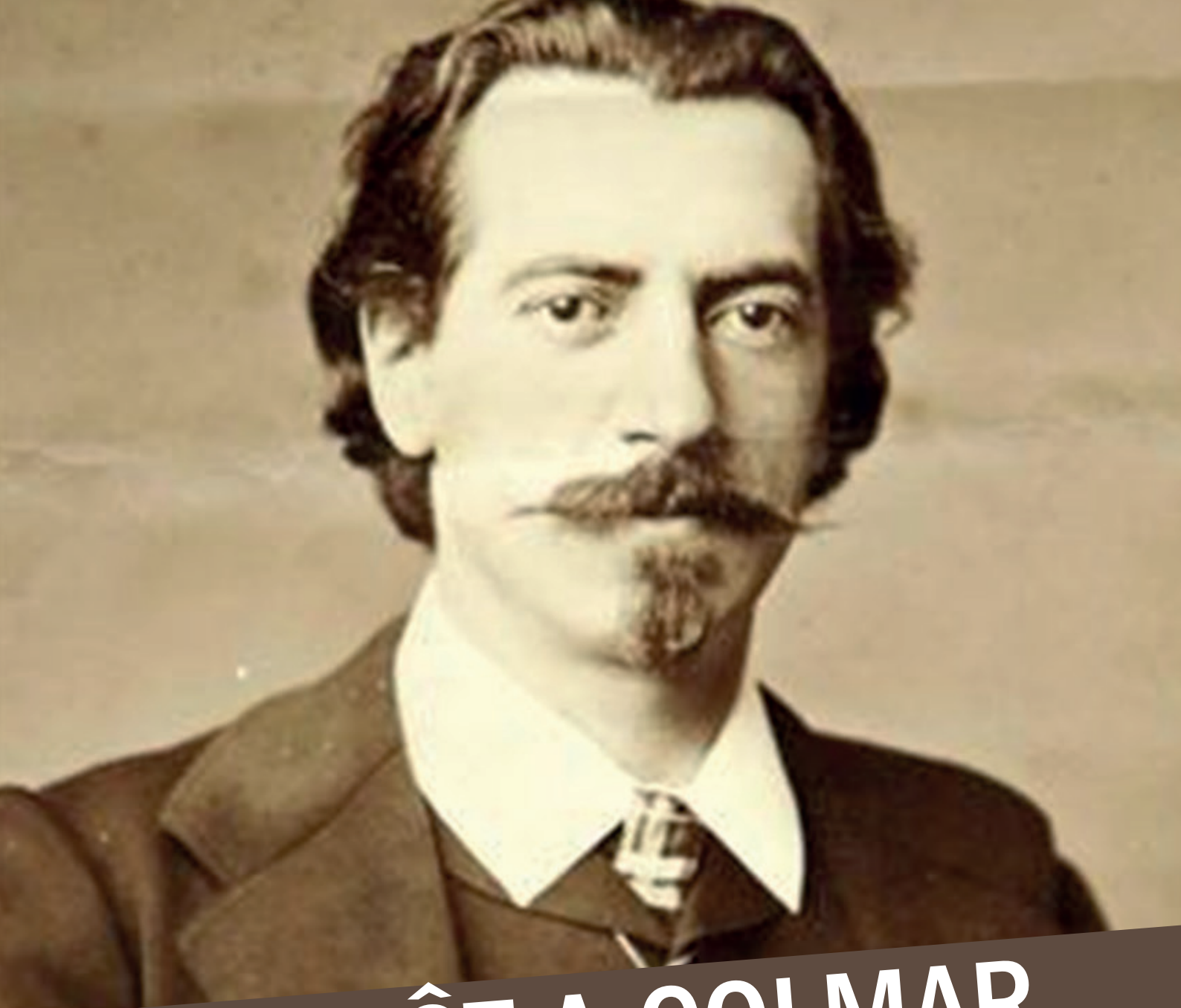
After an announcement of the National Guard in 1872, Bartholdi created this breathtaking tomb which has been made up in memory of two soldiers, Adolphe Edmé Voulminot and Joseph Wagner, who died in action on 14 September 1870. Today you can see this monument at the civic cemetery, rue du Ladhof, on the brink of the main alley (Sud C) in the 55th row.



City map



- 1 – Les grands soutiens du monde - 30 Rue des Marchands – p7
- 2 – Martin Schongauer fountain - Parvis du Musée Unterlinden – p7
- 3 – Schwendi fountain - Place de l’Ancienne Douane – p8
- 4 – Bruat fountain - Parc du Champs de Mars – p8
- 5 – Roesselmann fountain - Place des Six Montagnes Noires – p9
- 6 – Statue of General Rapp - Place Rapp – p9
- 7 – Monument Hirn - Square Boulevard Saint Pierre – p10
- 8 – Bust of Jean Daniel Hanbach - Eglise Saint Matthieu - Grand’Rue – p10
- 9 – Le Petit vigneron– Covered market (Marché couvert) - Rue des écoles/Rue des vignerons – p11
- 10 – Le Tonnelier - 19 Rue des Têtes – p11
- 11 – Le génie funèbre - Lycée Bartholdi - 9 Rue du lycée – p12
- 12 – The tomb of Kern - Municipal cemetery - 135 Rue du Ladhof – p12
- 13 – The tomb of Voulminot– Municipal cemetery - 135 Rue du Ladhof – p12



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