

# Printing privilege in the Prince-Bishopric of Liège during the Early Modern Period (16th – 17th centuries)

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LIÈGE université  
Library



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"As for Luther, you know that smoke has risen in Louvain, undoubtedly due to the theologians [...]; soon it was Liège, with the connivance of the bishop who aspires to the cardinal's hat; finally, much more hatefully, in Cologne (December 1520)."





Erard de La Marck (1472-1538)

- 17 October 1520: Exsurge Domine
- 12 April 1527: States allowed Edict of Worms
- 9 June 1533: Forbidding to sell heretic books and loss of civil right for offenders



## George of Austria (1505-1557)

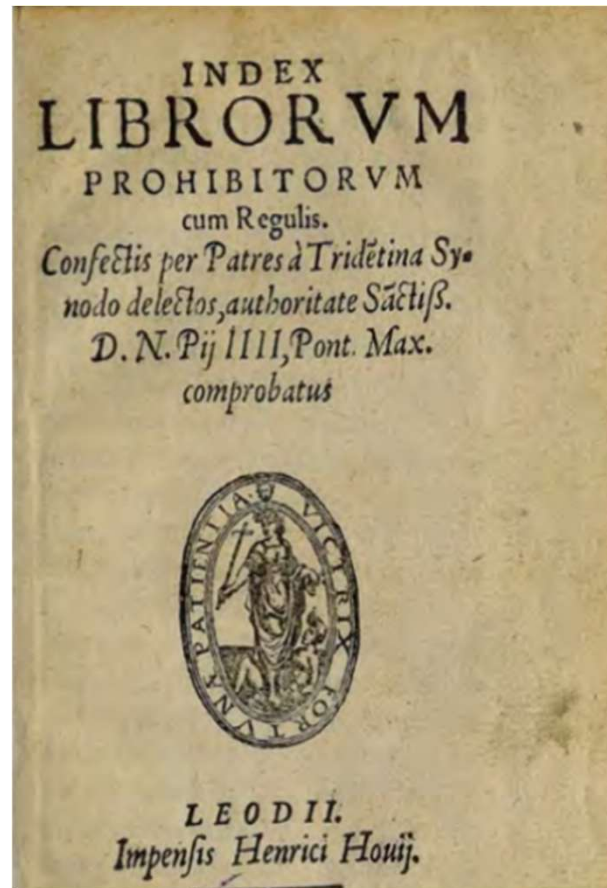
- 30 July 1556: Forbidding to sell libels and seditious writing



## Robert of Berghes (ca 1520-1564)

- 5 March 1562: Prohibiting the sale or printing of books without prior authorization and an oath of allegiance to Roman Catholicism





1568 : Promulgation  
and printing of the  
Index of Rome (1564)

Gerard van Groesbeeck (1517–1580)



Ernest of Bavaria (1554-1612)

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20 May 1589 & 21 March 1589

- Complete inventory of stock
- Forbidden to open boxes of books without agent
- Register with the vicar general
- Possess the Index of banned books
- Obtaining approval to reproduce a book and print it on the book



Ferdinand of Bavaria (1554-1612)

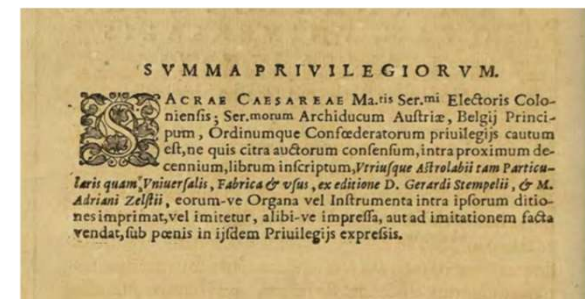
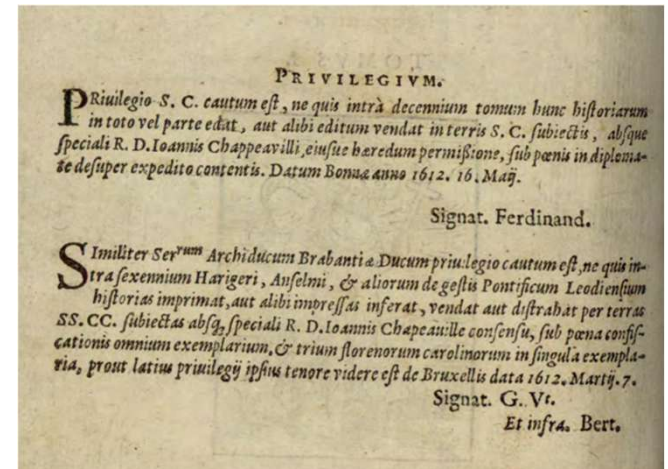
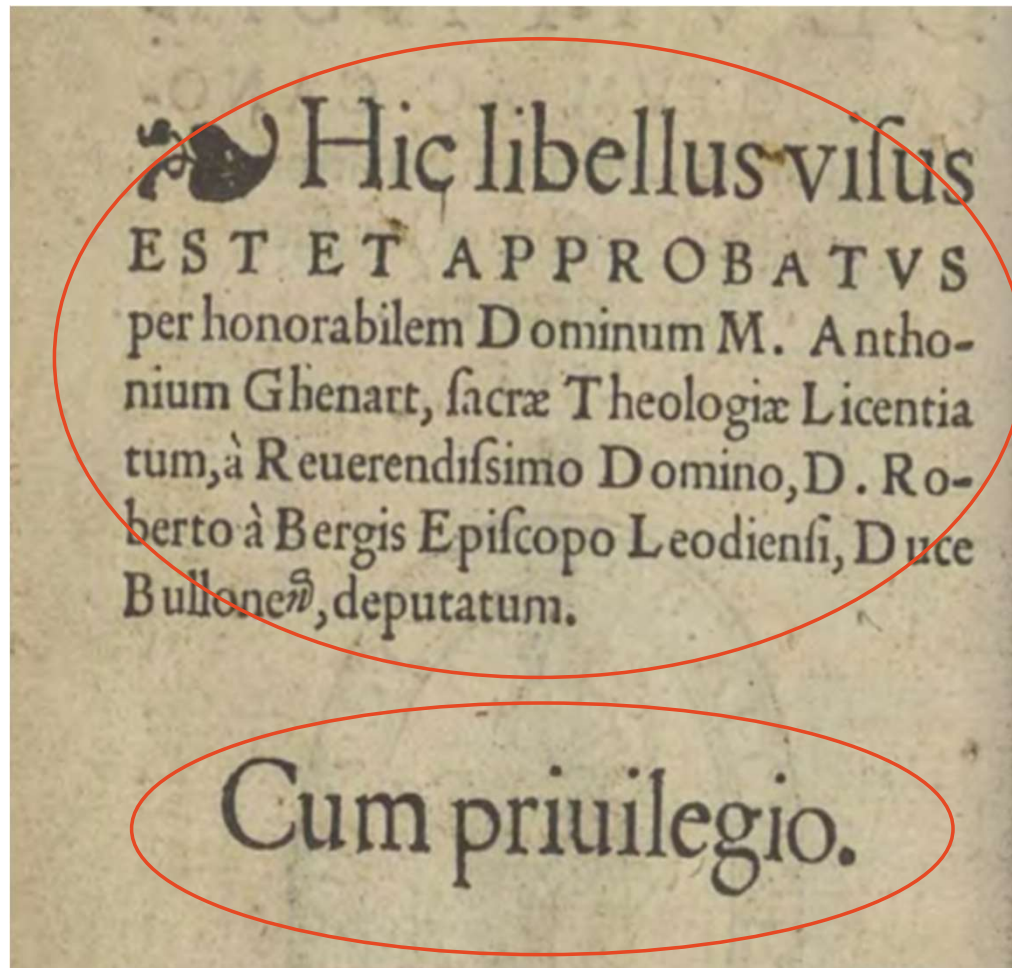
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11 January 1618

Prohibiting the printing or sale of "any books or booklets unless they have first been reviewed and approved by our vicar general for spiritual matters and, in civil matters of police or State, by us or our private council."



# Printing privileges, some examples





Privilege from Liège

PRIVILEGIUM.  
**P**riuilegio S. C. cautum est, ne quis intra decennium totum hunc historiarum in toto vel parte edat, aut alibi editum vendat in terris S. C. subiectis, absque speciali R. D. Ioannis Chapeauilli, eiusue heredum permissione, sub poenis in diploma-  
te desuper expedito contentis. Datum Bonae anno 1612. 16. Maij.

Signat. Ferdinand.

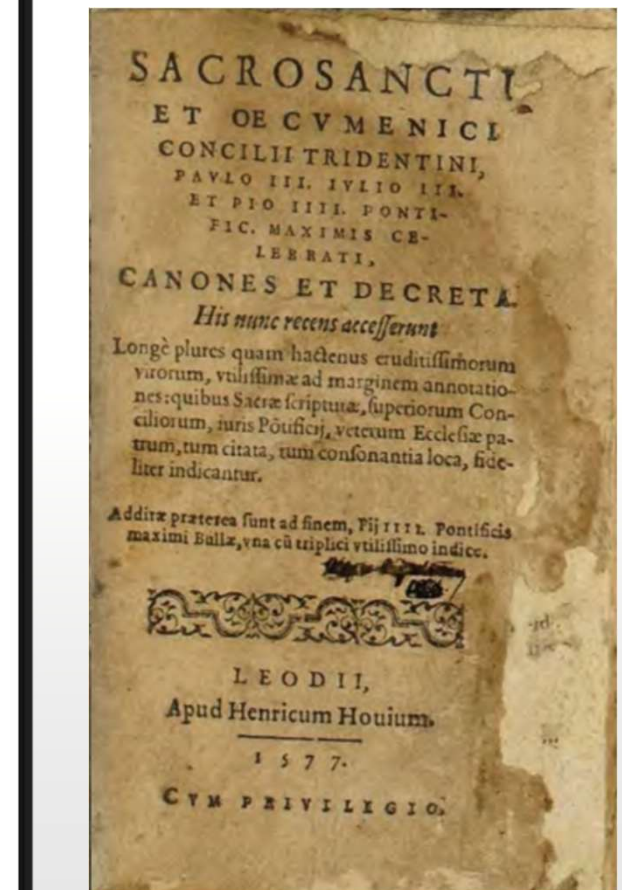
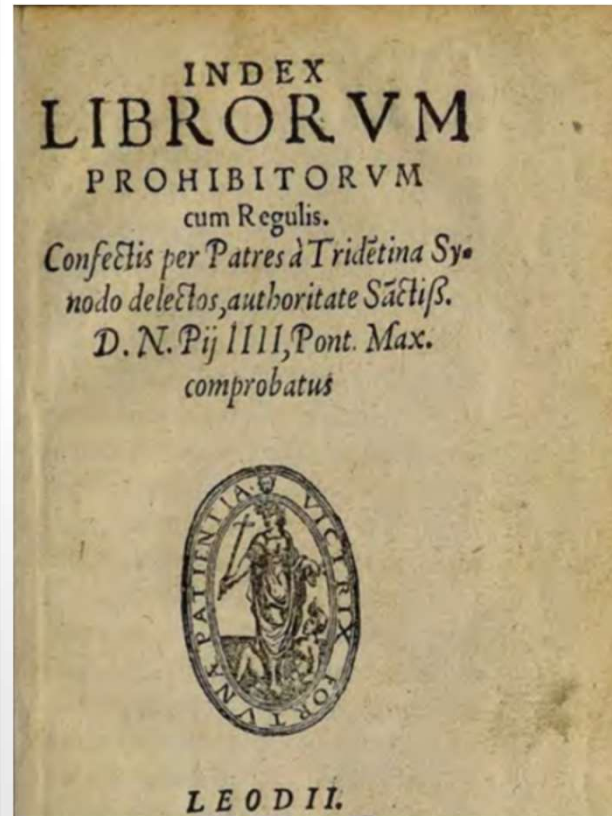
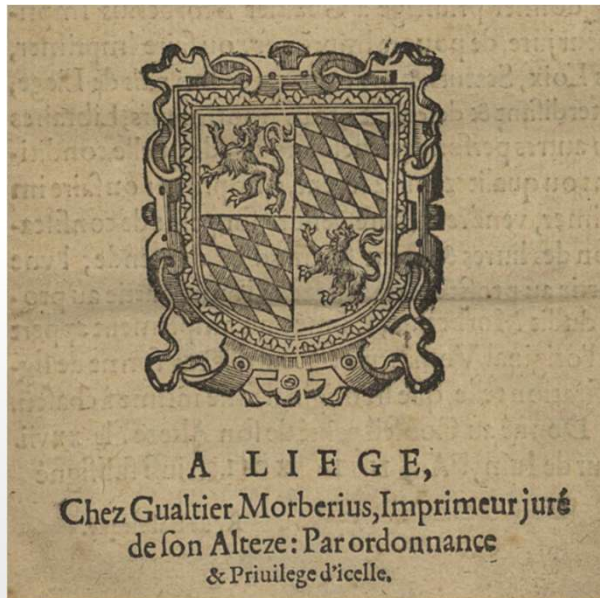
Privilege from Brussels

**S**imiliter Ser<sup>rum</sup> Archiducum Brabantiae Ducum priuilegio cautum est, ne quis intra sexennium Harigeri, Anselmi, & aliorum de gestis Pontificum Leodiensium historias imprimat, aut alibi impressas inferat, vendat aut distrabat per terras SS. CC. subiectas absq<sup>ue</sup> speciali R. D. Ioannis Chapeauille consensu, sub poena confiscationis omnium exemplarium, & trium florenorum carolinorum in singula exempla-  
ria, prout latius priuilegij ipsius tenore videre est de Bruxellis data 1612. Martij. 7.

Signat. G. Vt.

Et infra. Bert.

J. Chapeauille, *Qui-  
gesta Pontificum....*,  
Liège, J. Ouwerx,  
1612-1616, 4°

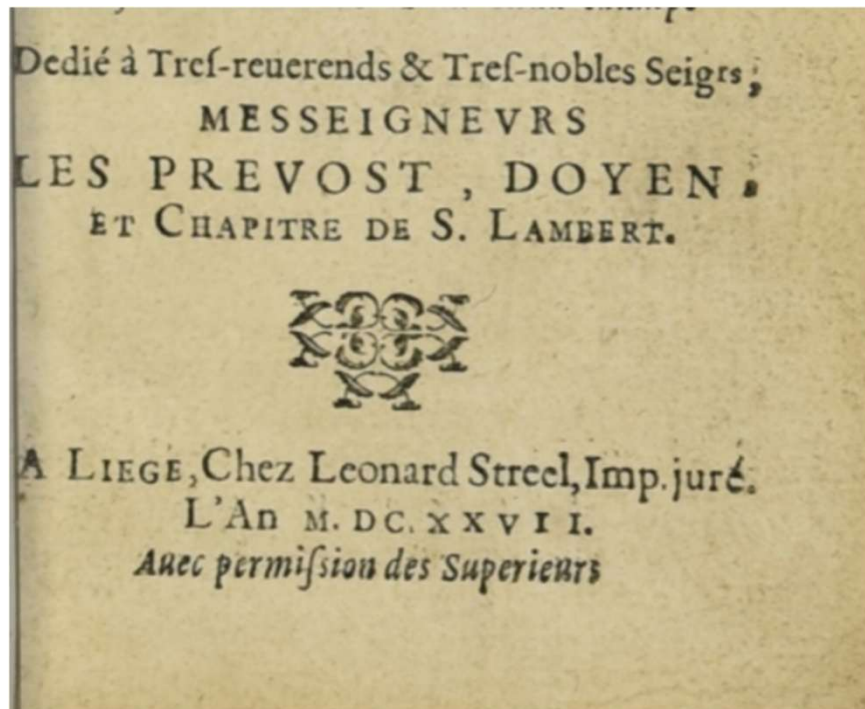


Morberius' proximity with the government => official commissions



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## Heirs of Morberius : two sons-in-law sworn-printers of the prince-bishop

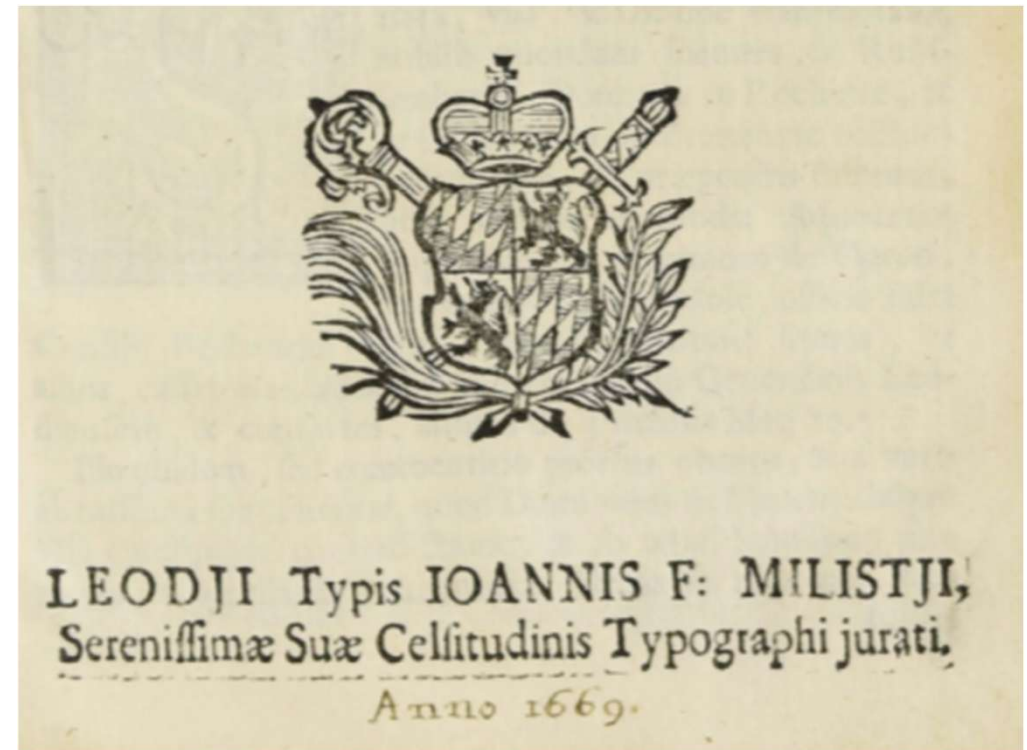


Léonard Streel Sr



Christian Ouwerx Sr

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New sworn-printers of the prince-bishop :  
Guillaume-Henri Streel and Jean-François de Milst

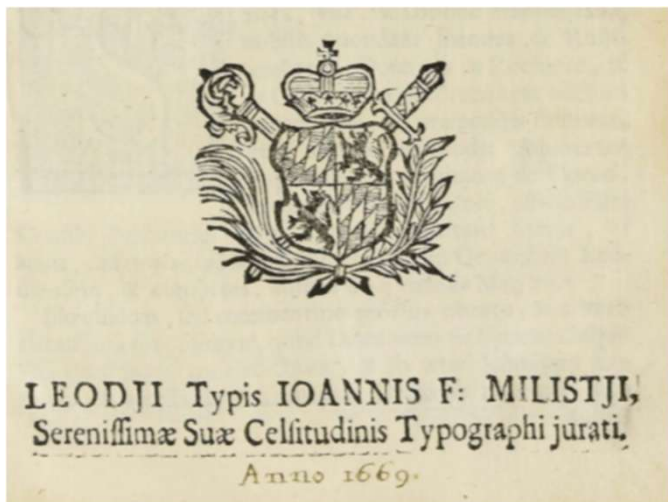


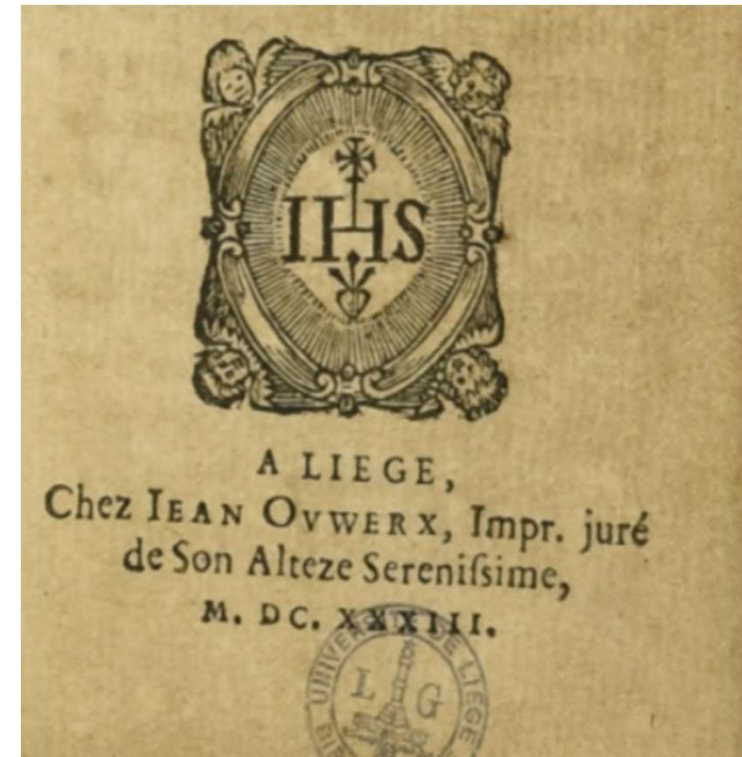
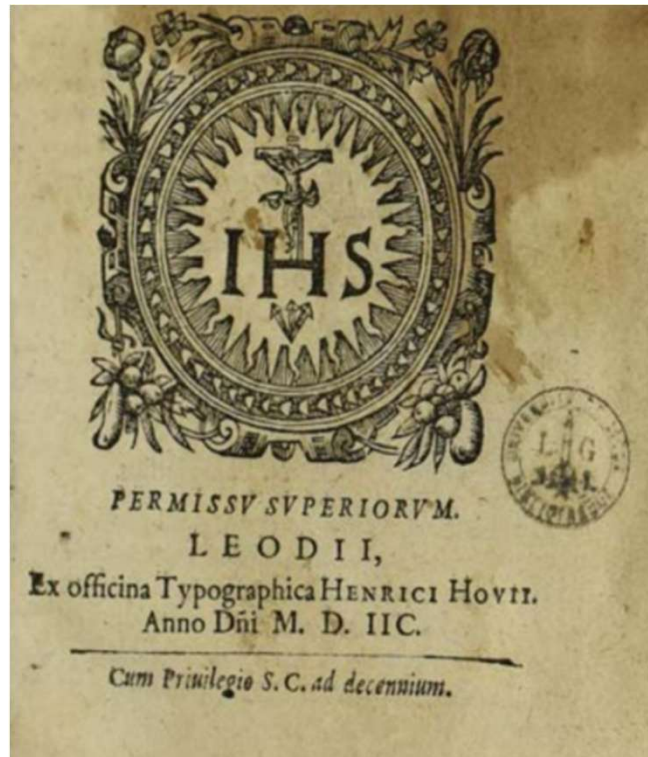


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Maximilian Henri of Bavaria granted to J.-Fr. de Milst the sole right

“to print and sell gazettes, articles on the terms of peace treaties, pamphlets, letters, notices, journals, reports, and, more broadly, all forms of ordinary and extraordinary news, regardless of their format, style, or title.” (16 May 1678)





Conflicts between printers: printing Jesuit books (March 1615)  
Henri & Guillaume Hovius >< Christian & Jean Ouwerx