

**Cardinal Mercier Gives Belgium's King a Relic Of His Patron Saint**

The Relic Is That of St. Albert of Louvain Whose Body Was Recently Unexpectedly Found in Rheims Cathedral—King Also Presented With Beautiful Reliquary  
By Rev. J. Vander Heyden (Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)  
Brussels, Dec. 31.—On his recent onomastic feast, King Albert was presented by Cardinal Mercier with a twofold gift—with a relic of St. Albert of Louvain, His Majesty's Patron Saint, and with a reliquary of artistic design and workmanship as well as of telling historic and spiritual meaning, conceived and executed by Brussels' foremost goldsmith jewelers.

In the history of St. Albert and of the Saint's remains, Belgium's Priests found more than one prompting to remember his King.  
Through the Houses of Orleans and of Saxony, King Albert is of the lineage of St. Albert, who was the son of Godfrey III, Duke of Lower Lotharingia, and brother of Henri I, Duke of Brabant. Although Bishop-elect of Liege, St. Albert has been surnamed "of Louvain," because he was born in the princely castle upon whose ruins now rises the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Coeli, which from its lofty heights overlooks the city of Louvain.

The war that brought so many sorrows to Belgium's King was the occasion for the discovery of the sacred remains of his patron and ancestral relative. These remains lay buried in the Cathedral of Rheims, being thought to rest while in the chapel of the Carmelite Nuns. In consequence of the vandalism perpetrated upon it during the years of the sad conflict, the restoration of the Rheims medieval architectural gem necessitated the opening of the tombs of several bishops interred in the nave of the church. This was not done at hazard; but with the documents concerning the burial places in hand and under critical examination, by anatomists and archeological experts.

**St. Albert's Body Found**  
Before the digging began, the experts were prepared to find one sepulchre empty, because the body that had been laid to rest in it in the year 1192 was supposed to have been exhumed and translated to Brussels, at the request of the Archdukes Albert and Isabella 420 years later. But, contrary to what the archives, the sepulchral inscriptions, etc., had taught them, it was the burial place of the first prelate known to have been interred in the cathedral of Archbishop Odaire, who died in the year 962, that the workmen found untenanted. The vault that was believed to be vacant still held the remains of him buried there, according to irrefragable testimony, in the year 1192, the body therefore, of St. Albert, Bishop and Martyr.

Whilst the sepulchre of the other Prelates bore inscriptions, the two mentioned had none and St. Albert's had not even a sepulchral slab. Hence probably the mistake committed at the exhumation in 1612. In the stone coffin they then found a skeleton clad in pontifical robes, a gold-ornamented crozier, a gold finger-ring with a large sapphire, and various other objects that have been to it since.  
As St. Albert died by the sword and as a traumatic wound was identified in the skull of the exhumed century and since felt quite convinced that it was the body of St. Albert that was transferred to Brussels skeleton, the anatomists of the XVII in 1612.

Had archeological science been as advanced in the XVII century as it is now, the experts of the day would have known by the shape of the crozier and of many other indices, that these objects were too archaic to date from XII century.

With the remains recently brought to light, there was found a crozier as well, one clearly of a shape common in the XII century and since. Moreover, several traumatic wounds concord with the contemporary relation of the manner in which St. Albert met his fate at the hands of three men armed with swords and knives who went on furiously mutilating the body, even after their saintly victim had expired.

Commissions appointed by Cardinals Luçon and Mercier scrutinizingly examined the remains, the tomb, etc., and reached the unanimous conclusion that the recently-found body was St. Albert's and that the holy remains venerated in Brussels are those of Archbishop Odaire.

Cardinal Luçon graciously offered the relic of the martyred Bishop of Liege to Cardinal Mercier, who keeps them in the chapel of his episcopal palace at Malines until the complete of the new basilica of the Holy Spirit now in course of construction upon the heights overlook-

ing Belgium's capital. There the major portion of the relics is destined to be preserved for the veneration of this and future generations.

**St. Odaire's Relics**  
In the course of time the Brussels Carmelite Nuns, with the consent of the ecclesiastical authorities, absconded fragments of the sacred boon confided to them, to satisfy the pious desires of various congregations in whose churches St. Albert is particularly venerated. All these dispersed relics, now known to be St. Odaire's, are to be returned, by order of the Holy See, to the Cathedral of Rheims. One notable fragment was given in 1878 to the Rt. Rev. V. J. Grandin, Bishop of St. Albert, Canada.

St. Albert of Louvain was not yet thirty years of age when the Canons of the Cathedral Chapter of Liege chose him for their Bishop. As the Bishop of the diocese was at the same time its temporal ruler, he needed the suzerain's lay investiture, which Henri VI, then emperor of Germany refused to confer. Having proceeded to Rome to lay his case before the Holy Father, Albert saw the Canons' choice confirmed by the Pope, who preconized him Bishop of Liege and raised him to the Cardinalate. On the way back to his own, the youthful Cardinal received the Episcopal consecration at Rheims, September 20, 1193. He decided to remain in that city until such times as he could safely take possession of his episcopal see. His death, shortly after, at the hands of the myrmidons of Henri VI, frustrated that hope.

**Reliquary Given King**  
Writing in the "Twentieth Century" about the reliquary donated to the King, the Abbe Schyrgens says, that it is "both of sacred and patriotic inspiration, of a personal and original conception, marrying with harmonious audacity the religious and the martial idea."  
The custode containing the relic is boldly fastened to the edge of a sword pointed downwards. It evokes the remembrance both of the martyr of the Church's rights, who in his youth had worn the knight's haubert, and of the avenger of Belgium's rights, justly called the Knight King.

The custode is closed by a convex crystal lid wherein the capital initial letter "A" is adorned by a braid of which the twistings, through their entanglements, express the hard roads of exile traveled by both Alberts. In the center of the opposite side, on a gullioche background, appears, in niello engraving, the glorious image of the enthroned Pontiff. It is surrounded by a pretty wreath of edelweiss—the flower of the Bavarian Tyrol dear to Queen Elisabeth—dotted with roses, the emblematic flower of St. Elisabeth, her patron.

**Its Inscriptions**  
A Latin legend in the exergue of the custode begins on the observe with the words: "Juris agone Ingens, O Sancte Alberte"; and continues on the reverse: "propugnatores patriae regem aurea regna coelorum et nuptam due et sobolem victores." "St. Albert, so great, through thy vindication of justice lead triumphantly to Heaven's golden throne the King, his spouse and offspring."  
Upon the foot of the remembrance-like reliquary the King's coat-of-arms is engraved in front, and the Cardinal's, in the rear; and on the rim runs the dedicatory epigraph: "Alberto R. B. Inclyto, Serenissime Reginae Hanc S. Alb. Lovan., sacris e vertebra mihi insertam D. J. Em. Card. An. L. Illo Sac. D.D." "To His Majesty Albert, the illustrious King of the Belgians, to the Most Serene Highness the Queen, His Eminence D. J. Mercier, in this, the fiftieth year of his priesthood, bestowed this holy vertebra of St. Albert in me enclosed."

**Ireland's Great Men To Come Into Own Historian Declares**

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)  
Dublin, Dec. 31.—When Mrs. Stopped Green, widow of the historian and herself an historian of distinction, recently presented to the Senate of the Free State, a jeweled casket of early Irish Christian design, she sent from a sick bed a message to accompany the gift in which she expressed confidence that future historians would do justice to a noble and reconciling vision of Irish nationality.

"Silence and neglect will no longer hide the fame of honorable men," she said. "We shall learn the ties which in fact ever bind the dwellers in Ireland together. Whether we are of ancient Irish descent or of later Irish birth, we are united in one lofty obligation to complete the building of our common nation."

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**FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL STATEMENT**

of

**THE EAST SIDE SAVINGS BANK**

OF ROCHESTER

January 1, 1925

**RESOURCES**

Mortgages	-----	\$18,702,265.00
United States Bonds	(Market Value) -----	4,405,803.00
Massachusetts State Bonds	(Market Value) -----	138,000.00
Wyoming State Bonds	(Market Value) -----	5,200.00
Alabama State Bonds	(Market Value) -----	94,000.00
Maryland State Bonds	(Market Value) -----	50,000.00
City of Boston, Mass, Bonds	(Market Value) -----	97,320.00
City of New York Bonds	(Market Value) -----	654,000.00
City of Rochester, N. Y., Bonds	(Market Value) -----	828,000.00
City of Albany, N. Y., Bonds	(Market Value) -----	54,330.00
City of Buffalo, N. Y., Bonds	(Market Value) -----	438,000.00
City of Syracuse, N. Y., Bonds	(Market Value) -----	50,000.00
City of Troy, N. Y., Bonds	(Market Value) -----	70,877.80
Railroad First Mortgage Bonds	(Market Value) -----	330,000.00
Banking House	-----	508,067.66
Cash on Hand and in Banks	-----	770,430.96
Collectible Interest Due and Accrued	-----	243,575.32
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		\$27,439,869.74

**LIABILITIES**

Due Depositors	-----	\$25,224,351.65
Dividends Accrued to Depositors	-----	80,943.75
Reserved for Taxes	-----	27,508.01
Surplus	-----	2,107,066.33
		<hr/>
		\$27,439,869.74
Surplus (Bonds at Market Value)	-----	\$ 2,107,066.33
Surplus (Bonds at Par Value)	-----	2,075,785.53
Surplus (Bonds at Amortized Value)	-----	2,067,047.93

Dividends Credited 54,119 Depositors December 1, 1924 at the Rate of 4 per cent Per Annum.

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Incorporated November 1, 1869