



Press release

JOKE SCHAUVLIEGE

FLEMISH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND CULTURE

Friday, 25 October 2013

Flanders Heritage Library receives the Flemish Culture Award for Cultural Heritage 2012-2013

Today, the Flemish Minister for Culture, Mrs Joke Schauvliege, has granted the Flemish Community Award for Cultural Heritage 2012-2013 to the Flanders Heritage Library. According to the jury, the Flanders Heritage Library provides a clear illustration of the part that a small intermediary organization can play to tear down the walls between the different conservation institutions. The presentation took place during the annual consultation and meeting moment 'Het Groot Onderhoud' in Bruges regarding the contribution the cultural heritage sector can make to Flanders' tourist appeal.

The Flanders Heritage Library was created by the end of 2008 as a network of six partner libraries (the 'Hendrik Conscience' Heritage Library in Antwerp, the Public Library of Bruges, the Limburg Provincial Library and the university libraries of Antwerp, Ghent and Leuven), but the activities clearly aim at the entire field of heritage libraries. In a short space of time, the Flanders Heritage Library developed into a respected supporting organization. It succeeds in having highly different types of libraries (in museums, archives, monasteries, universities, public libraries...) work together. The communication is dynamic and uses the new media in an intelligent manner.

In November 2012, the Flanders Heritage Library launched the user-friendly portal site Flandrica.be with digitized material from Flemish heritage libraries. It includes a fifteenth century red leather band with mystical love poetry by Hadewijch, a first edition of 'Reynaert den Vos' and a collection of poems from 1981 by a very young Tom Lanoye. The site truly is a treasury, presenting valuable manuscripts or works by literary giants, but also song lyrics, cookery books and other everyday documents. By means of Flandrica.be the organisation attracts attention to the value and importance of digitization, one of the great challenges for the entire cultural heritage sector. Digital opening up brings about that everyone, without any threshold, can become acquainted with some magnificent pieces from our history and, in addition, it benefits the conservation of the original documents.

Another commendable initiative is 'Boekensteun' (working title: Adopt-a-Book), a pioneering pilot project in which the Flanders Heritage Library, together with a number of partners, explores the possibilities of external fund-raising ('crowdfunding') in the cultural heritage sector.

The Flemish Minister for Culture, Mrs Joke Schauvliege: "The Flanders Heritage Library is a network of six prominent heritage libraries that, spurred by young, dynamic staff members, has acquired a spot for itself in the field of the Flemish heritage libraries. With them, our paper cultural patrimony is in expert hands."

Het Groot Onderhoud 2013

'Het Groot Onderhoud', the annual consultation and meeting moment of and for the cultural heritage sector, is an initiative of the Flemish Support Centre for Cultural Heritage FARO and the Advisory

Committee on Cultural Heritage. Proceeding from the finding that cultural heritage contributes significantly to the tourist appeal of Flanders, about 300 participants from all sections of the cultural heritage sector and the tourism sector reflected on the specific relation between cultural heritage and tourism.

For more information, please visit: www.hetgrootonderhoud.be.

Culture Awards Flanders 2012-2013

A jury of experts pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Flemish Culture Awards create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner.

A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: www.cultuurprijzen.be and www.vlaanderen.be/cultuurprijzen