

## Habsburg Connection

Speaking of Habsburg connections: how about the imperial crown above the city coat of arms on the main entrance of the town hall and (in stone) on the side of the Lange Noordstraat? Or the imperial crown on the Lange Jan? The crown would go back to Maximilian of Austria. These examples do form a veritable 'Habsburg connection'.

Some history:

The States honor Maximilian of Austria as regent for his son Philip the Fair in the Abbey on August 21, 1482.

Philip the Fair is inaugurated by the city on November 7, 1496 at Middelburg City Hall. The inauguration by the States of Zeeland took place the day before in Reimerswaal.

The inauguration of the States of Charles V also took place in the Abbey, while he -see below- was also received by the city at the town hall.

The few times that the Habsburg landlords visit Middelburg, the abbey was a temporary accommodation. Occasionally people stayed with family on the Markt, Zandenburg Castle or West-Souburg Castle, which were owned by relatives. Both castles were demolished in the 80-year war.

On the inauguration of Charles V as Count of Zeeland on May 14, 1515. Between the Dam (place of arrival) and the Market, staves had been erected and 14 tableaux vivants could be seen.

Members of the Habsburg royal family always stayed in Middelburg during their trips up and down to Spain. Charles V stayed there in 1517 for three months (in the Gravenlogement in the Abbey) waiting for favourable winds to travel to Spain for the first time.

Images on the town hall:

List of statues on the town hall:

The last image in the Lange Noordstraat represents Charles V, count from 1515 to 1555. The penultimate statue is Philip the Fair (count of 1482-1506). His father Maximilian precedes him. He was the first Habsburg, married to the heiress Mary of Burgundy. He observed (regent) for his son Philip from 1482 to 1494 and his grandson Charles from 1506 to 1515.

So at the end of the line at the town hall are:

Charles the Bold (of Burgundy) -Mary of Burgundy- Maximilian of Austria (= Habsburg)-Philip the Fair (of Habsburg)-Charles V (of Habsburg)

The new port (1535) and the inland ports (the quays, 1540) date from the time of Charles V.

This also applies to the original statues of Michiel Ywijnszoon (1514-1518) in the facade of the town hall. These however have been replaced and restored several times.

After statues had previously been replaced in the eighteenth century, new copies were manufactured during the restoration of the town hall under the leadership of Pierre Cuypers in 1895-1902 (see a.o. Middelburg. Face of the city). S.S. Smeding writes in his article 'The new image of Charles V in Middelburg City Hall', in Archief Zeeuwsch Genootschap 1936 extensively about the images. He reports that the statues were placed in the Choer Tower after 1910 and also mentions the three statues that are now in the Voorhal. later a new statue of Charles V was made that was not placed and unveiled until 1936.

<https://deoostkerk.nl/joost-de-jonge>

Hotel to Stay is surely the St. Joris (St.George) Hotel:

[https://www.kloegcollection.com/en/stay/hotel-st-joris?  
\\_gl=1\\*z5gpj7\\*\\_up\\*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgZiHycuPhgMVU5GDBx37JQo-  
EAAYAiAAEgKRiPD\\_BwE](https://www.kloegcollection.com/en/stay/hotel-st-joris?_gl=1*z5gpj7*_up*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgZiHycuPhgMVU5GDBx37JQo-EAAYAiAAEgKRiPD_BwE)

We will dine all together afterwards.

It would be especially interesting to visit Fort Rammekens it's construction was ordered by Margaretha of Hungary sister to Emperor Carolus the 5th. It is the first big defense castle at sea in Western Europe, built 1547. Middelburg was at that time one of the most important harbor cities of the area. Its architect was Donati de Boni di Pellezuol, who already worked for the emperor in his town of birth (Gent).The early Renaissance entrance gate is one of the most beautiful aspects of the castle.Emperor Carolus the fifth left The Netherlands via this castle on to Spain, after he left it to his son Philips II.

[https://www.zeeland.com/nl-nl/visit/681\\_nl/fort-rammekens](https://www.zeeland.com/nl-nl/visit/681_nl/fort-rammekens)

The (partly) 900 year old abbey is a great monument.

<https://www.zeeland.com/nl-nl/live-work/abdij-middelburg>

<https://www.zeeuwsmuseum.nl/en/about-the-museum/publications/middelburg-abbey>

The castle could be visited Saturday at 11:00 hours (with a group). Then Later on a visit to Domburg where Mondrian painted many of his early masterpieces could be arranged. There is a special walking route in place to see all the spots where Mondriaan painted.

<https://www.badhotel.com/de/spa-domburg/>

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