

# THE STORY OF THE EXCLUSIVE ANCIENT BEER BOTTLE OF LAMBIC

The story of this exclusive old bottle of Lambic starts in the picturesque village of Schepdaal in the Zenne valley in Belgium. This small village had over more than 84 cafés and inns in the beginning of the past century, including the café of the Geeroms family.

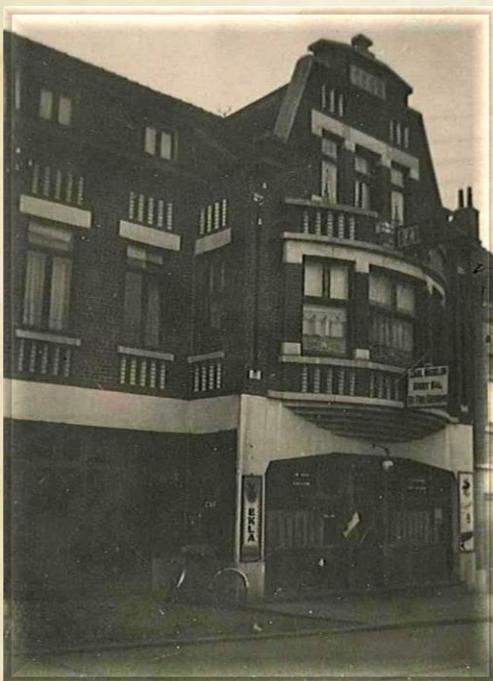
The question is if many breweries did come to Schepdaal because there were many inns or because there were many so breweries? Or were both of them there because they were really thirsty in the Zenne Valley that is well known for its world famous sour Lambic and Gueuze beers?

Believe it or not but this village of less than 5000 citizens even had 4 breweries (Eylenbosch, de Troch, De Neve, Goossens) something that you will certainly not find in every village from this size.

During the last century there was a fierce battle on the Spanuit, the Trochen against the Eylenboschers ... and alternately the brewers of these breweries became mayor of Schepdaal.

Each brewery tried to expand its empire by only selling their beers café or in an inn. People did not even go to the other places where beers of a different political color was served.

During the elections, the four breweries were divided in 2 camps, Eylenbosch and Goossens against De Troch and De Neve. The fact that people in Schepdaal were not afraid to have a beer once in a while is testified by the many stories of men who often walked around drunk and the doctor who had a bodyguard to defend himself against the aggression of drunk people who end up with him.



Café of the Geeroms family with on the 1th floor ballroom 'Madelon'



## Found by accident

3.000 old bottles of Lambic that were found by accident 10 years ago and have been hidden for many years, when found a tasting showed the beer is still from an exceptionally good quality.

Grandson Frederik Geeroms cannot give us the exact age of the bottles and neither KU Leuven was able to analyse the cork or yeast to determine the exact age, but it can be said with certainty that the bottles are at least 60 years old.



In the past, the brewery supplied the Lambic and Gueuze beers to the cafés in wooden barrels, after which the innkeeper filled the bottle and knocked a cork stopper on it.

The Gueuze or Lambic was marked with a white line on the bottle and the kriek (sour cherries) got a red line. Because of the political background of the café we can state with certainty that the bottles found came from the breweries Eylembosch and Goossens.



Location of the cellar were the bottles were found

## Tasting notes

The middle of the cork smells of forest soil and mushrooms, which in principle would indicate that the beer would no longer be good, but the bottom of the cork turned out to be fine & proper.

*“Phenomenal Lambic, beautifully preserved light citric acidity and softness, that such an old beer can still be so good”*

*By Tom Verhofstade – Hopishop*



1952 Father Robertus is visiting the Geroms family at the café



## Good to know

When cleaning up the cellar they also found some old bills for the purchase of beer from the year 1933.

As the story of the beer is becoming a myth also some breweries have purchased some of the beer to infuse it into a beer that they created.

Two well-known craft breweries who experimented with this old Lambic beer are De Feniks and Bokkenreyder



Proof of purchase from both breweries dating from 1933

## Limited & collectable

You would not be surprised the beer will become more exclusive and limited as it already is so far. If you are a through beer geek and would add one or more bottles into your personal collection please contact us by email [niek.groen@me.com](mailto:niek.groen@me.com) to check for availability, price and shipment.



Farmhouse brewery Goossens



Brewery Eylenbosch

