

GEVAERT, Lieven

Born: Antwerp 1868

Died: Den Haag (NL) 1935

Originally predestined to follow in his father's footsteps in the family business of framers of pictures, he is captivated by photography and after schooling in Brugge he makes his own photographic paper which until then had to be imported. He is a self-taught chemist in this branch and the financial support by the Antwerp business man Armand Seghers enables him to establish his own company which over a number of years (from 1904 to 1928) spreads all over Europe and the United States. In 1928 he produces the first X-ray films and movie films with soundtrack. As an economist he is the co-founder of the (actual) Voka (Flemish Economic League) and helps to promote Flemish companies. He contributes to the struggle to establish Flemish schools in Antwerp and supports lavishly a number of Flemish companies and societies. With his employees he follows a policy of social support and prefers his work force to share in the profits rather than to provide cheap housing for them.

He was very dynamic, had a clear view of technical as well as economical problems and hated superficiality of any kind. Ten years after the death of his wife, Lieven Gevaert unexpectedly passed away in Den Haag in 1935.