



Dordrecht

3 January 1877 – 2 May 1877

Vincent lived in Dordrecht for four months from January of 1877. He worked in a bookshop and spent much of his time there but also went for long walks in the city along with reading the Bible in his rented room. His religious fanaticism was dominant throughout this period: Vincent attended several church services every

Sunday and the twelve letters he saved from Dordrecht are filled with references to the Bible. He left Dordrecht for Amsterdam in May of 1877 to study Theology.

In present Dordrecht, you can still visit many places Vincent frequented, especially the

churches where he spent much of his time. Some locations no longer exist but strolling through the old city centre still gives a good impression of Vincent's Dordrecht.



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3 January 1877 – 2 May 1877



- a** Church of Our Lady
Lange Geldersekade 2
- b** Wallon Church
Corner Voorstraat – Visstraat
- c** Trinity Chapel (Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation)
Vriesestraat 20-22
- d** Pension Rijken Family
Tolbrugstraat
- e** Blussé & van Braam
Scheffersplein
- f** Former Dordrechts Museum / Boterbeurs
Wijnstraat 158
- g** Nieuwkerk
Nieuwkerksplein 1



Church of Our Lady

Address: Lange Geldersekaade 2

Vincent enjoyed strolling through the area surrounding the Church of Our Lady and ritually frequented it whenever he went for a stroll in the city. He also regularly attended services in the church, where the Rev. Keller of Hoorn, an old friend of his father's, was a Protestant minister. Vincent confided his wish to study Theology to Keller but the reverend discouraged it because he lacked the proper training.



Blussé & van Braam

Address: Scheffersplein

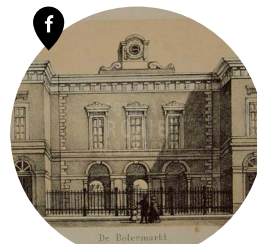
Vincent worked at the Blussé & Van Braam bookshop from January to May 1877. He was a 'bijlopie', an errand boy, and his tasks included checking shipments. He worked long hours in the shop and translated bible texts in between duties. The shop no longer exists today. The statue on the square Scheffersplein dates from 1862 and depicts Ary Scheffer, one of Vincent's favourite artists at the time.



Wallon Church

Address: Corner Voorstraat – Visstraat

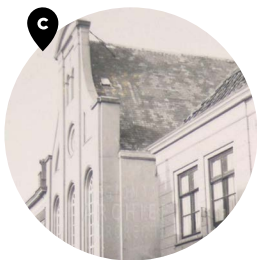
Vincent visited this church only once, when there was a farewell service for the Rev. Jan Hendrik Hoover. He wrote that he deemed the congregation posh and peculiar and the mood austere. Although the building which housed the Walloon Church still exists, it is no longer in use as a place of worship.



Former Dordrechts Museum / Boterbeurs

Address: Wijnstraat 158

Vincent enjoyed visiting the Dordrechts Museum in his free time. He admired the museum especially for its many works by one of his favourite artists, Ary Scheffer. Vincent often went to the museum alone, but was at times also accompanied by his roommate, colleagues and brother and father. The museum was located in the Boterbeurs until 1904, when it relocated to the Museumgracht, at the time known as the Lindengracht.



Trinity Chapel (Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation)

Address: Vriesestraat 20-22

Vincent could often be found in church: on Sundays he went to several services in various churches in the city. He visited this Evangelical Lutheran congregation on 21 January 1877.



Nieuwkerk

Address: Nieuwkerksplein 1

Vincent often wandered through the city at night. On these walks he liked to pass by the Nieuwkerk. On 27 February 1877, it had just snowed and Vincent wrote in a letter to brother Theo: "...everything was so still, the only thing one saw was a little light here and there in one or two upstairs rooms and, in the snow, the black figure of the rattle-man. It was high tide, and the canals and boats looked dark against the snow. It can be so beautiful there by those churches. The sky was grey and foggy, and the moon shone faintly through it." [Letter 104]



Pension Rijken Family

Address: Tolbrugstraat

Vincent lived with Pieter Rijken and his wife Maria Aelmans in a pension above their grocery shop. Because three boarders already lived there at the time of Vincent's arrival in Dordrecht, he had to share a room with Paulus Coenraad Görlitz. They became friends. Vincent covered the walls of their first-floor room with prints and citations from the Bible. The Rijken family considered Vincent a peculiar man because of his extreme passion for Theology and his reclusive behaviour. Unfortunately, the original building no longer exists. A plaque commemorates the house at the beginning of the street.