The "Stanislaw Walk" pays homage to the past and builds up "memories for the future", including as it does the historic and architectural heritage of Commery. Most of the buildings date from the 18th century, the town's "golden age". Once a fortified town and, later, the home of the Princes of Lorraine, Commery became a truly royal town after the arrival of King Stanislaw. It underwent profound change as a result of urban spread and major architectural redevelopments. This period of building began just at the right time and Commery has continued to develop ever since.

The 20th century was marked by the work of the leaders of the Nancy School and there is a priceless example of this artistic movement in the "Art Nouveau" pharmacy in the town centre. All along the "Stanislaw Walk", there are majestic buildings such as the Stanislaw Palace, the Breuil Priory and the Museum of Ceramics and Ivory. There are also more discreet buildings indicated by their own specific signage.

Information panels and wall plaques are dotted along the route, providing explanations of each particular spot. So why not take a guided tour of our town and our history? This invitation is a continuation of the existing conservation work; it is also an attempt to promote our architectural and other heritage. We should like to make it more easily understandable by everybody, including the local people who have an on-going responsibility for the future of the town famous for its madeleine cakes. We hope that this walk will suit our curiosity, make you want to find out more and give you some insight into the history of the people and town of Commery.
1 Place Charles De Gaulle
Laid out beyond the town walls in the 14th century, this district was the centre of economic life and administration for many years. Early in the 20th century, it was still the main attraction in Commercy thanks to the covered market and bandstand where local people would come to do their shopping, have a chat and attend meetings.

2 Maison de la musique (1759)
Place Charles De Gaulle
The “Music House” is one of the main buildings on Place Charles de Gaulle. Once the Town Hall, it was commissioned by King Stanislaw in 1759 to replace the old court house in Rue Colson. It now houses the municipal music school. It became a listed building in 1983.

3 Caisse d’Epargne (1903)
Place Charles De Gaulle
On the ceiling of the board room in the Savings Bank, there is a superb painting by Victor Prouvé, one of the Nancy School’s leading artists, extolling the virtues of agriculture and stone working.

4 Pharmacie Ecole de Nancy (1907)
Place Charles De Gaulle
The Nancy School pharmacy is the region’s only example of a pharmacy built in the Art Nouveau style. Its naturalist décor was created jointly by Eugène Vallin, Charles Fridrich and Joseph Janin.

5 Vélo drome (1946)
Rue Foch
This cycle racing track was laid out by the Véloce Club Commercien in 1895, on the former marketplace. The “Pink Ring”, which was rebuilt in 1946 to Olympic size, is one of the finest tracks in France and it plays host to great champions during national and international competitions.

6 Pont des Moulins
Quai Neptune
The “Mill Bridge” spans an arm of the Canal de l’Est. Its banks were once lined with tanneries and corn mills, as well as the slaughterhouse, a wash-house and a smithy, five major features of working life in Commercy.

7 Quartier des Moulins
Place de l’Abattoir
This square was built on the site of a section of the mediaeval town walls (Porte-aux-Meules). Note the remains of the old wall and the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, founded in 1186 and destroyed in 1799.
8 **Château Stanislas (north-east wall)**
These are the impressive remains of the 14th-century "Upper Castle" which was turned into a comfortable palace in the 18th century. The palace used to look out onto Stanislaw's magnificent gardens but they were destroyed in 1766.

9 **Château Stanislas (south-west wall, 18th century)**
This is a masterpiece by Boffrand and Héré, an architectural gem dating from the days of Stanislaw's Lorraine (like the palaces in Nancy and Lunéville). It was destroyed by fire in 1944 and rebuilt as an exact replica of the original palace. It has been the Town Hall since 1972 and a listed building since 1960.

10 **Place du Fer à Cheval (1717)**
This square was once the bailey of the "Upper Castle" but was redesigned for Prince de Vaudémont and King Stanislaw to provide a long straight vista stretching as far as Commercy Forest.

11 **Eglise Saint-Pantaléon**
*Rue de la Paroisse*
This church, which contains a number of extremely interesting statues and paintings, was built in three stages (16th, 18th and 19th centuries). The organ (18th-19th centuries) became a historic monument in 1989. Note the superb vicarage (busts of St. Peter and St. Paul).

12 **Place Dom Calmet (1779)**
Laid out between the "Upper Castle" and the old "Lower Castle", this square was the site of the paupers' graveyard until 1765. The square was named in honour of Dom Calmet, a historian of Lorraine who was born in Menil La Horgne and who founded the college in the Breuil Priory in 1757. His statue was removed in 1942. The present statue dates from 1994.

13 **Rue de la Paroisse**
Outstanding houses: Rue de la Paroisse (Nos. 7 and 15), Rue du Puits Robinot (Nos. 11 and 13), Rue du Bas-des-Prés (country cottages), Rue de la Mas (No. 4) and Rue d'Alsace (No. 9).

14 **Musée de la Céramique et de l'Ivoire (1933)**
*Avenue Carcana*
The building now housing the museum of ceramics and ivory was the municipal bath house until 1974 but it has been used as an Arts Centre since 1989. It is reminiscent of the luxurious water tower in the Stanislaw Gardens which were destroyed in 1766.
**15 Château De Gaucourt (pre - 1766)**
*Rue de Lisle*
Built for a descendant of an officer in Joan of Arc’s army. Superb interior staircase. Now used as private housing and a crèche.

**16 Hôpital Saint-Charles (1713)**
*Avenue Stanislas*
The buildings include a chapel, an apothecary’s shop, a former school and a former convent. Note the decorative lintel above the entrance. Inside: portraits, valuable furniture and apothecary’s utensils. It became a listed building in 1998.

**17 Avenue Voltaire**
Located close to the old Margueritte District (1890) named after a General from Meuse, the fodder stores (1777) serve as a reminder of the French presence here following the death of Stanislaw.

**18 Jardins du Prieuré de Breuil**
The Breuil stream runs through the gardens which were extended as far as the Avenue des Tilleuls in 1722. The gardens were taken over by the horticultural college (Ecole Normale pour l’enseignement de l’horticulture) in 1854. They became a historic monument in 1995.

**19 Prieuré de Breuil : les annexes**
A large number of buildings used to flank the cloister and 17th-century church e.g. stables, a byre, a barn and a dovecote. The wing leading into the gardens is all that remains of the first period of reconstruction of the priory in the early 18th century by Prince de Vaudémont.

**20 Prieuré bénédictin de Breuil (depuis 1096)**

**21 Faubourg de Breuil**
Once a separate village. Thanks to the priory, it has retained its rural feel to the present day. Streets worth a particular visit include: Rue de Breuil, Rue Haute-de-Breuil, Rue Haptouté (house at No. 26) and Rue Poincaré (formerly Rue Levée de Breuil).
**22 Avenue des Tilleuls**

The majestic avenue of lime trees was laid out in 1714 by Prince de Vaudémont and replanted in 1994. The avenue leads to the forest, once one of Commercy's main sources of income and a popular spot for recreation and relaxation with princes and commoners alike (see Stanislaw's "Royal Fountain").

**23 Rue de la Porte au Rupt**

This street follows the line of the old town walls and was upgraded in the 19th century to cater for cartloads of stone from Euvillé. Note the houses at No. 2 and No. 6.

**24 n°6 rue de la Porte au Rupt**

The home of Charles Emmanuel Dumont, a magistrate and local historian.

**25 Rue des Juifs**

Literally, "Jews' Street", an allusion to the shopkeepers who settled here in the 13th century.

Note the superb 17th-century house at No. 1 and the 16th-century

**26 Rue des Colins/Rue Colson**

Rue des Colins: note Nos. 2-4 (18th-century house), No. 9 (mediaeval law court) and No. 12 (18th-century house).

Rue Colson: note Nos. 9-11 (17th-century house), No. 24 (Commercy's old newspaper offices).

**27 Place des Chanoines**

Formerly known as Place Denis. The square is flanked by the collegiate church dedicated to St. Nicholas. In the centre is the Amilcar Zannoni fountain paying homage to blacksmiths and wiremakers (1997). Note: Rue des Moulins (Nos. 6-8): thought to have been the home of Cardinal de Retz, built in 1596) and the middle section of Rue de la Poterne (the line of the old town walls is marked out on the ground).