The Verschaffelt dynasty: four generations of bold entrepreneurs of the 19th century who brought the Ghent horticulture industry to an international level. This book, based on extensive documentation and on unpublished sources, gives the first complete overview of their activities.

Modest craftsmen in their beginnings, the Verschaffelt nursery gradually acquired the status of a prestigious commercial business and the family became valued for their expertise by the publications that came to be known throughout the world - *La Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias* and *L'Illustration Horticole* – renowned as well because of their graphic qualities as by their scientific purpose.

The first of the Verschaffelt dynasty, Pierre Antoine (1764-1844) is one of the founders of the Floralies of Ghent. His successors Alexandre (1801-1850) and Ambroise (1825-1886) were among the first to send researchers to harvest unknown plants in exotic countries. Also Louis (1806-1849) and Jean (1811-1884) were amongst the major Ghent horticulturists of their time.

Camellias, orchids, azaleas and palm trees were their most popular plants but their catalogues covered a large number of other species. Many plants bear their name: new imports from abroad, the result of their own crossbreeding, varieties dedicated to them.

Princes and kings, including Léopold II, creator of the royal greenhouses of Laeken - frequently relied upon their experience and honoured them by their confidence.

The Verschaffelt family is a typical example of the ascending *bourgeoisie* of the 19th century in Ghent.

The book (in French) was published in March 2013 by the foundation De Bauw-Nias (Brussels, Belgium).

Price EUR 14,75 + postage

Contact and orders: fondation.dbn@gmail.com